

FRONTISPIECE.



A NEW
HISTORY
OF
ENGLAND;

FROM THE
INVASION of JULIUS CÆSAR
to the End of George II.

Adorned with CUTS of all the KINGS
and QUEENS who have reigned since
the Norman Conquest.

*The Memory of Things past ought not to be
extinguished by length of Time, nor great
and Admirable Actions remain destitute of
Glory.*

Herodotus.

L O N D O N:


Printed by R. BASSAM, No. 53, St.
John's Street, West-Smithfield, 1789.

(Price Six-pence.)

226. h. 230.



A
DESCRIPTION
OF
GREAT BRITAIN;
WITH
Some Account of its *Constitution*
and *Government*.

 HE island of Great Britain is of a triangular form; the angles whereof are the Lizard Point to the West, Sandwhich to the East, and Straithy-Head to the North. The seas that surround it are the CHANNEL to the South, by which it is separated from France; the GERMAN OCEAN to the East, which
B 2 divides

divides it from Flanders, Denmark and Germany; the NORTH, or FROZEN SEA to the North; and the IRISH SEA to the West. It is in length about 630 English miles, and its greatest breadth about 290.

This Island contains the two ancient kingdoms of England and Scotland, which were united under one Monarch in 1703, and into one kingdom in 1707. There are also bordering as it were upon this island several others isles, which are subject to the same Monarch, and are therefore considered as a part of Great Britain. But Ireland, which is an ancient conquest of the Kings of England, as will be seen in the course of this History, is considered as a separate kingdom, though subject to his Britannic Majesty.

The south part of this Island, called England, is divided from Scotland by the rivers Tweed and Solway, and the mountains of Chiviot; and received
that

G R E A T B R I T A I N . 3

that name from the Angles, or people of Lower Saxony, who were invited over by the Romanized Britons about the year 450, to assist them in their wars against the Picts, or Southern Scots.

Great Britain and Ireland are finely situated with regard to health and defence ; and their soil is so fruitful, that it produces all the conveniencies of life ; and even affords many articles of luxury, of which future historians will, I am afraid say, that the present inhabitants were too fond. They have all sorts of useful animals in abundance, and very few that are noxious. They have great plenty of fruits and herbs ; and corn in such quantities, that Great Britain has been called, by way of eminence in this respect, the granary of Europe. The eart^h also in many parts abound with lead, iron, and other minerals, and Cornwall is famous for producing the best tin in the world. Strabo says, there are mines of gold, but I

believe the old Geographer was mistaken; however, there are in Wales some veins of silver, and pit-coal enough to supply all the nations of Europe. The horses, oxen and sheep are excellent. They have great plenty of wool, which is the best in the world for making cloth; and the trade for their woollen manufactures is very extensive, as is that of their linen, hard-ware, and other commodities. They have indeed no wine of their own growth, yet more is supposed to be drank here than in the whole kingdom of France; and what is pretty extraordinary, more than is imported; they have, however, most excellent beer, and cyder in great plenty. Perry has been made here in such perfection, that when kept to a good age, even the French themselves have mistaken it for champaign. Scotland has a manufactory of linen that is in great repute, and the fishery which might be the richest in Europe if well conducted. Ireland has
also

GREAT BRITAIN. 5

also a manufactory of linen that is deservedly in high esteem; and they have black cattle, sheep, and excellent wool, in great plenty.

The trade of these kingdoms can only be estimated by their number of shipping; and their imports and exports, which are amazingly great.

The air of these islands is so healthy, that those natives who can't afford to eat and drink too much, frequently live to the age of an hundred, and we have one instance of a man, I mean Henry Jenkins, who lived to the age of one hundred and sixty-nine: The air however is in general very foggy, especially about London, where it is almost a rule, that if there is no fog in the morning, it rains in the afternoon, and a morning's fog generally produces a fine day.

I shall say but little of the character of the inhabitants: every man knows his own constitution best. I am an Englishman, and an encomium from

me might be suspected. I must observe, however, that they are upon the whole, a very good people; yet here, as in other places, odd compounds are to be met with. They are for the most part ingenuous and industrious, generous and humane, strong and brave; rather kind than civil to strangers, faithful and friendly; they are great lovers of liberty, which, however, they do not always endeavour to preserve by the most prudent means; and one thing I must take notice of, which is rather the effect of inconsiderate wantonness than a bad heart, we see, and especially among the lower class, daily instances of inhumanity to animals.

The Government of England is a compound of * Monarchy, Aristocracy, and

* By Monarchy I mean that form of government where the whole power is invested in the King, and who has therefore the disposal of the lives and fortunes of his subjects.

Aristo-

GREAT BRITAIN. 7

and Democracy, consisting of a King, and two Houses of Parliament, that is to say, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal; and the commons, or the Knights of the Shires, Citizens and Burgeses: But this is said with regard to the legislative power only, the whole executive part being invested in the Crown. There is also the Upper and Lower Houses of Convocation, composed of the Archbishops, Bishops, Deans, Archdeacons, and some Proctors, to represent the Clergy of each diocese. This national Synod of the Clergy, which is almost considered as an essential part of the Constitution, is convoked whenever

B 5

a par-

Aristocracy is when a few of the best and chief of the people, in conjunction, rule and govern therest.

Democracy is when the government is in the hands of the multitude, and the fathers of families assemble in council to make laws and manage the affairs of state.

a parliament is called to take care of the state of the church ; but tho' regularly convened they have not been permitted to enter upon business for many years. The House of Lords is the supreme Court of Judicature ; and appeals may be made to the Lords from all inferior courts both in Great Britain and Ireland. But the Commons, by preserving to themselves the power of giving money to the crown, are become the great barrier to the liberty of the subject. These grants they make only once a year, and have, since the Revolution, obliged the crown to call them together annually for that purpose.

The crown of Great Britain is hereditary, but not like that of France, for in default of male issue, female succeeds to it : A difference in religion, however, or non-observance of the laws, may set aside the nearest in blood ; for the people have often broke in upon the line of succession, to preserve their religion

G R E A T B R I T A I N. 9

ligeon and previleges. But in these cases the crown has been transfered by parliament to a branch of the same family, and great care has been always taken to prefer the next of kin, if duly qualified.

The established religion of England is reformed episcopacy, as it was perfected and confirmed by Queen Elizabeth; but Protestant dissenters of all denominations are allowed the free use of their religion, as also are the Jews, who have here public synagogues. There are in England two Archbishops and twenty-four Bishops; two Universities, deservedly esteemed throughout the world; and a great number of public schools and hospitals for objects of charity.

The eldest son of the reigning King, and next heir to the crown, has ever since the time of King Edward the first, been called the Prince of Wales. And he has, for the support of his court and
B 6 dignity,

dignity, an allowance from the civil list, which is a certain annual revenue granted to his Majesty for the support of his household, separate and distinct from what is appropriated for the different purposes of government.

Scotland, before the Union, was a compound of three estates not unlike that of England; and when the Stuart family came to the crown of England, a Commissioner was usually sent from London, on the meeting of the Scotch parliament, to represent the King. But since the Union, the Scots, who have no parliament of their own, send sixteen Lords and forty-five Commons to represent them in the parliament of Great Britain. The established religion of Scotland is Presbytery.

Ireland was governed by its own Kings 'till the year 1172, at which time it submitted to the obedience of Henry II. King of England. It has never been united with England in the manner

GREAT BRITAIN. 11

manner Scotland was, but is still a distinct kingdom, governed by a Lord Lieutenant from England, who represents his Majesty in their parliament, which is composed of the Peers spiritual and temporal, and Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses, in the manner of that in Great Britain. Here are four Archbishops and eighteen Bishops, who are all of the Church of England.

It is one invaluable part of the British constitution, that every man in criminal cases is to be tried by his Peers; that is to say, by his equals, or a Jury of twelve men, who are indifferently chosen out of a much larger number, and to any of these the prisoner may object, if he thinks them prejudiced against him, and have them changed for others whom he thinks more impartial, which is a great bulwark against tyranny and oppression.

Of the Ancient State of BRITAIN.

THIS Island was formerly called Albion, probably from its white cliffs, and Britain, as is conjectured, from Birth, an old English word that signifies painting the skin; it being a custom among the antient Britons to paint their naked bodies, and small shields, of an azure blue colour, which was by them called Birth, by which name it was supposed the inhabitants themselves were distinguished by strangers who came to trade in the Island. To this the Greek added the word Tanie, or Country, and formed Brith-tane, or the Country of Painted Men, which, with a little variation, was changed into Britannia by the Romans.

It is to be observed, that the Britons not only painted their skins, but likewise

Of the Ancient State, &c. 23

wife depicted on their bodies figures of
the Sun, Moon, Stars, &c. in the
manner here represented.



C

Whe-

Whether these people were *aborigines* Gauls, or Trojans, is uncertain: for they took no care to transmit their origin to posterity; or if they did, their writings have perished. The only account, therefore, of the ancient Britons that can be depended on, is that given us by Julius Cæsar, from whom take the following extract: “The inner part of
“ Britain, says he, was inhabited by
“ those whom tradition recorded to be
“ originally produced in the island, and
“ the sea coast by those who came out
“ of Belgium, or the Netherlands, either
“ to make incursions or invasions, who,
“ after the war was ended, continued
“ in the possessions they had gained, and
“ were called by the name of the cities
“ from whence they came. The country is very populace, and well inhabited, with houses much like those in
“ France. They have great store of
“ cattle, and use brags for money, or
“ iron rings weighed at a certain rate,
“ In

" In the midland part there is found
 " great quantities of lead and tin, and
 " in maritime parts iron; however,
 " they have but little of that, and their
 " brasse is brought in by other nations.
 " They have all sorts of trees which they
 " have in France, excepting the Beech
 " and the Fir. Their religion will not
 " suffer them to eat either hare, hen or
 " goose; notwithstanding they breed
 " them all, as well for novelty as diver-
 " sion; The country is more temperate,
 " and not so cold as France. Of all the
 " inhabitants, those of Kent are most
 " courteous and civil; all their country
 " bordering upon the sea, and little dif-
 " fering from the manner of France.
 " Most of the inland people sow no corn,
 " but live upon milk and flesh, and are
 " either cloathed with skins, or naked.
 " All the Britons in general paint their
 " flesh with *blue*, to the end they may
 " seem more terrible, in fight. They
 " have the hair of their head long, but
 " all

“all other parts of their body shaven
“except their upper lip.”

The ancient inhabitants of this island, though it was divided into several cities and states, seem to have consisted only of the three sons of men whom Cæsar calls Equites, Druids, and Plebes, answering, as we may suppose, to our Nobility, Clergy, and Commonalty, the last of whom had no share in the government, and were but a sort of slaves or dependants on the other two.

The Equites were considered in their several states as Princes or chiefs, and had authority, power, and a number of followers, in proportion as they excelled one another in birth and wealth; each Chief being, we may suppose, not unlike the head of a clan in Scotland, or of the Septs in Ireland: and this seems to have been the original state of government, not only here, but in other parts of the world, and was deduced from the natural force and right of paternal dominion.

minion. The men had the power of life and death over their wives, children and slaves, and none were permitted to speak of matters of state, but in assemblies held for that purpose.

The Druids, so called from the British word *Deru*, signifying an oak, (either because their sacred places were in groves of oaks, or from the physical virtues they attributed to the mistletoe, which grew on the oaks) had the whole care of their laws, religion, and learning; for a knowledge in which the people applied to them, and held their persons in great veneration. *Cæsar* tells us, that

the learning of the ancient Druids had its source in Britain: whence it was transferred to France, and that even in his time those who were willing to attain a perfect knowledge of their learning and discipline, travelled into Britain for that purpose: whence we may conclude, that the Druids of Britain and France taught the same doctrine. The

Chief of the Druids had great authority and was a sort of President over the rest, and at his death, he who excelled in dignity, generally succeeded; but when there happened to be several equals, the President was chosen by election, and sometimes by force of arms.

The Bardi or Bards, where Druids or Priests of an inferior order, whose principal business was to celebrate the praises of their heroes in verses, which they set to music, and sung to their harps.

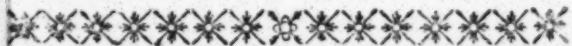
The Ubates where also Priests of an inferior degree, who, as Strabo tells us, employed themselves in the study of philosophy and the works of nature.

These Druids met once a year at a time and place agreed on for the execution of their laws; when all persons who had controversies of right and wrong, or who had criminals in charge, came for their determination. They had a supreme power either to punish or acquit; and if any person refused to
obey

obey their decree, he was excommunicated, that is, divested of all his rights, both religious and civil, and hated by all men. Their worship was much like that of all other idolaters; Mercury was their principal God whom they adored as the inventor of arts, the conductor of voyages and journeys, and as the disposer of gain and merchandize; Apollo they adored for his power in healing diseases; Minerva for communicating knowledge; Jupiter for governing the celestial empire; and Mars for his aid in battle, to whose use they generally consecrated their spoils of war, and sacrificed such beasts as were taken from the enemy; and sometimes in extreme danger they have sacrificed their criminals, and for want of them their innocent slaves, by putting them alive in wicker images of prodigious magnitude, which being made of osiers, were set on fire that all might be consumed together. The doctrine of the Druids was
princi-

principally intended to teach men, *The might and power of the immortal Gods: That the souls of men did not die, but transmigrate or pass from one to another after death*; which last tenet was thought to stir up men to virtue and valour, and enable them to cast off the fear of death. Their learning consisted principally in philosophical and astronomical enquiries concerning the stars and their motions, the magnitude of the earth and the world, and the nature of things in general; to which perhaps may be added, from their application and veneration of the mistletoe, a knowledge of diseases and the method of cure. But this their science was, by their law, concealed from the common people, and therefore no part of it was transcribed, but committed to the memory, and retained in an infinite number of verses, which they often repeated: a knowledge of their science, therefore, when a person was admitted into their class, re-quired

quired great study and application; and even with that, was not to be obtained perhaps, in less than twenty years. Their other transactions, whether public or private, were usually recorded in the Greek tongue, of which language they were possessed when Cæsar invaded Britain.



Of The Invasion and Government of BRITAIN by the ROMANS.

AMBITIOUS men, to avoid the imputation of cruelty, endeavour to draw from justice and equity a colour to disguise their actions; this was the case with Cæsar, whose pretence for invading Britain was, that they had assisted the French with forces to be employed against him; and that Mandubratius, a British chief, applied to him for succours against his uncle Cassivellanus, or Cassibalaun, who had murdered his father King Lud, as is generally supposed, through

22 *Of the Invasion of BRITAIN*

though Cæsar calls him Imanuentius ; for this, or for other reasons, that are too obvi-
ous to be concealed, Cæsar, after having enquired into the state of the island, sent Volufanus in a galley to find out the best landing places, while he, with two legions, containing 8000 foot, and eighty ships, besides galleys, sailed from Calais in the night, and the next morning arrived on the coast of Britain ; where the inhabitants, who had heard of his coming, were ready to receive him and attacked the Romans so furiously as they attempted to land, that they failed of their usual courage, which one of their ensigns, or Eagle-bearers, perceiving, jumped overboard, and with a loud voice cried, *Follow me, brother Soldiers unless you will forsake your standard and betray it to the enemy ; as for my part I'll do my duty to my country and my General.* Upon which those in that ship immediately followed, and pressing hard on the Britons, the battle by degrees became
genera

general and bloody; at length, however, the Romans got footing on the island, and put the inhabitants to flight, but were not able to follow them for want of their horsemen, whom Cæsar had ordered to embark in eighteen ships at St. Omer's, and who by a sudden storm were driven back, and so dispersed, that not one arrived.

The Britons, after this engagement, dispatched messengers to Cæsar to intreat for peace, promising hostages and obedience; and many of their Princes and Rulers came to commend themselves and their states to him; whereupon a peace was concluded four days after his arrival. But the Britons being afterwards informed that Cæsar's horse were driven back, and the ships that brought over his army almost destroyed by a tempest, thought proper to rebel; sending therefore messengers up into the country to inform their friends what a favourable opportunity they had of perpetuating

C

24 *Of the Invasion of BRITAIN*

petuating their liberty, and of even obtaining a considerable booty, they collected a body to attack the Romans, and several skirmishes ensued. Cæsar in all these encounters, endeavoured only to keep them off, 'till he could repair his shattered fleet to return to France; but the Britons, having by degrees strengthened their army with a great number of horse and foot, boldly attacked the Romans in their camp, and the battle was very obstinate and bloody; but the Britons were at last put to flight and pursued for a considerable distance by the Roman soldiers, who burnt all the towns they could come at that day, and then returned to their camp. Upon this the Britons again sent messengers to Cæsar to intreat for peace, which Cæsar again granted them on doubling the number of their hostages, with whom, as the winter was at hand, he sailed immediately for France.

The next spring, however, he returned

ed to Britain with 800 ships, and an army of five legions, containing about 20,000 foot and 2000 horse. The Britons, notwithstanding they had given hostages, collected an armed force on the cliffs near Dover to receive him, but were so terrified at the prodigious armament of the Romans, that they retired 12 miles towards Canterbury. Cæsar followed, and they for a long time bravely contended for their lives and liberties, but were at last obliged to give way. Cæsar could not pursue them, being under a necessity of returning to his fleet, which a tempest the night before, had almost destroyed. The damage however he repaired in ten days, and to prevent future accidents of that kind, haled up all his ships on shore, and inclosed them in his camp. During the ten days Cæsar was thus employed, the Britons who had many states and kings, whose interest had interfered, that they were at continual war with

each other, united their forces, and unanimously chose Cassivellanus, King of the Trinobantes, for their general; and this Prince, with his brave Britons, gave Cæsar as much trouble as ever he met with, and more abundantly than he expected, few days passing even for a whole summer, but what they had battles on each side the river Thames; and the Britons, by means of their fortified wood and war chariots, destroyed great numbers of their invaders.

Cæsar tells us, that in these chariots the Britons rode about, and cast their weapons as an advantage offered; that the terror of their horses and their wheels much disordered his forces; and when they had run in between any troops of horse, they alighted from their chariots and fought on foot; the charioteers in the mean time posting themselves so that their masters might retire to them in case they were overpowered. Thus these chariots, some of which had a sort
scurvy

icythe fixed to them to mow down their enemies, performed in fight the nimble motion of horse, and the firm stability of foot; and the drivers were by daily practice grown so dextrous, that they could stop their horses on the decent of a steep hill, and turn them short, or direct their course with great ease: and what is also extraordinary, they could run along the pole of the chariot, rest upon the yoke or harness and return again at pleasure.

Both Cæsar, however, and his forces had great fortitude, for they had been long enured to war; and Cassivellanus, being at length forsaken by most of his confederate Kings and Chiefs who had revolted to Cæsar, was obliged not only to make terms with Mandubratius, but to sue for peace in the name of the whole people; which was purchased at the expence of a yearly tribute, and a number of hostages; with which Cæsar left the island, and never returned again. But during this war, it is said that he

took Verulum, the chief town belonging to Cassivellanus.

This is Cæsar's account of the invasion, and by his account (which we may suppose was not written in disavow of himself or his followers) it appears that the Britons made a brave struggle for liberty, which has ever been dear to the inhabitants of this island, and which they probably would have obtained even against the immortal Cæsar, had not some private negotiations been set on foot to take of the other Princes from uniting their forces with those of Cassivellanus; and even as it was, Cæsar had enough of the Britons and was sick of the enterprize, or he would never after all the advantages he mentions, have departed quietly with a few simple hostages and the promising of a trifling tax without fortifying a single place, or leaving any garrison in the island. Nay, Lucan taxes him with turning his back on the Britons, and Horace and Tibul-

lus

lus both intimate, that in their days they were considered as a free and unconquered nation.

After this Britain continued tributary to the Romans near 500 years, but they frequently rebelled and refused to pay. It was first refused to Caligula, the fourth Emperor after Julius Cæsar, who was so incensed at the indignity, that he went against them himself; but either his courage or his force was insufficient for the undertaking, and, therefore being affraid to attempt an invasion, he made his soldiers load their helmets with pebbles and cockle-shells, and returned in a very ridiculous manner, triumphing with what he called the spoils of the Ocean. But Aulus Plauteus, and Ostorius Scapula, in the reign of Claudius, so far subdued the Britons, that they carried their King Caractacus in triumph to Rome, who on seeing the riches and magnificence of that city, reproved their avarice and asked, *how they*

30 *Of the Invasion of BRITAIN.*

they, who were masters of such glorious things, could be so greedy after the mean huts and possessions of the poor Britons. They rebelled again under Nero, who being est guardian to Queen Boadicea and her two daughters, his officers abused their trust, and a revolt ensued, in which 80,000 of the Romans were cut off. In another battle, however, which happened in consequence thereof, the Romans defeated the Britons, and slew 70,000; which so affected Queen Boadicea, that she destroyed herself. In the reign of Flavius Vespasian, they rebelled again; and, in the time of Domitian, they rebelled and killed a number of Romans; but were reduced by Julius Agricola, the Roman Deputy, who killed 10,000 Britons, and subdued the whole island, except the mountainous part of Wales and Cornwall, whither the unconquered Britons retired, and preserved both their liberty and language.

The

The Britons, however, were scarce ever easy under this tribute, for they had, as Agricola himself observed, *an unconquerable spirit of liberty*; and whenever the Roman deputies oppressed them, they generally arose, and put their garri- sons to the sword: They also rebelled in the times of Adrian, Antonius, Pius, and Commodus; and in the reign of Septimus Severus, * they destroyed 50,000 Romans. Many thousands like- wise were killed in the time of Carus and Dioclesian. But on their rebelling under the King Coilus, in the year 307,
D 2 the

* This Emperor, who is said to have actually reigned here and died at York, built about the year 209, a wall of free stone, 80 miles in length from the mouth of the Tyne to Solway Frith, on the rampart which the Emperor Adrian had before raised of turf about the year 120, in order to confine the Picts or Caledonians within proper bounds, and to prevent their disturbing his Roman garri- sons; part of which wall remains to this Day.

32 *Of the Invasion of BRITAIN, &c.*
the Emperor Constantius came over in person, and finding Coilus dead, married his fair daughter Helena, and had by her (born at Colchester in Essex) Constantine the Great, and the first Christian Emperor, in which religion 'tis supposed he was instructed by his mother, the Britons having received the Gospel soon after the death of Christ. This alliance set the Britons and Romans on better terms, for the first paid their tribute freely, and the latter assisted them against their encroaching neighbours the Picts and Scots; but in the year 427 the Roman Empire being in a manner overrun by the Goths, Vandals, and other nations, they were obliged, not only to withdraw their garrisons from Britain, but to take with them many of the British youth to assist them against their enemies, which so weakened the poor Britons, that they became a prey to other nations as will be seen hereafter.

OF THE

Reign of the SAXONS in ENGLAND,

AND OF THE

BRITISH KINGS that withstood
the HEPTARCHY.

❖❖❖❖ WHEN the Romans left Bri-
❖ W ❖ tain, it is supposed, as we have
❖ ❖ already observed, that many
❖❖❖❖ of the British youth went with
them to their wars abroad, whence the
nation was left in a manner defenceless;
and the northern parts easily became a
prey to the Picts and Scots. The Romans
indeed came to their aid several times,
and, the last time they were here, assist-
ed them in repairing Severus's wall; but
this fence joined to their force, being
insufficient to keep off their powerful ene-
mies, the distressed Britons were obliged
to send into Germany to crave assistance
from

from the Saxons; who, under the command of Hengist and Horfa, landed on the Kentish coast in the year 449, and joining the Britons, soon routed their enemies.

As the Saxon leaders had fought with distinguished bravery, Vortigern, King of the Britons rewarded them with possessions in Kent. Having thus gained a settlement in the Kingdom, Hengist in a few years enlarged the bounds allotted him, and made himself King of Kent, the first kingdom of the Saxon Heptarchy.

Encouraged by the success of these first adventures, the Saxons came over in great multitudes, and soon let the Britons know that they intended to be their masters; to forward which base scheme, Hengist invited all the British nobles to meet him on Salisbury Plain, under the pretence of making a treaty, and there treacherously caused them all to be slain. After this, more Saxons and Angles coming

ing over to join their countrymen, they in a few generations conquered all that part of Britian which had been subject to the Romans, and at different times divided it into those seven Kingdoms, which historians call the Saxon Heph-tarchy, viz. 1. Kent, containing the county; 2. Suffex, or South Saxons, containing Suffex and Surrey; 3. Wessex, or West Saxon, containing Berkshire, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorsetshire, Somersetshire, and Devonshire; 4. Essex, or East Saxons, containing Middlesex, Essex, and part of Hertfordshire; 5. East Angles, containing Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgehire; 6. Northumberland, containing the 6 northern counties beyond the river Humber; and 7. Mercia, containing all the rest of England, which was therefore by far the largest. Each of these kingdoms had a continual succession of several Kings, who were ever at war with each other, as well

E

as

as with the British Kings, for the space of 360 years, which occasioned various revolutions; but in the year 819, though some say 829, and almost 400 years after the arrival of the Saxons in England, Egbert, Duke of Wessex, or the West Saxons, reduced all the rest to his obedience, and became sole Monarch of England; which name he gave to his kingdom from a part of his Saxons, who were called Angles.

We are here to observe, that during this period there were thirteen British Kings, who withstood the Saxon conquest, though obliged to retire into Wales: viz. Vortigern, Vortimer, Ambrose, Pendragon, Arthur, Constantine, Conatus, Vertiporus, Malgo, Chareclius, Cadwan, Cadwalllo, and Cadwallader. And one of these, I mean Arthur, was so great a hero, that historians say he gained ten victories over the Saxons, killed in one engagement 400 of the enemy with his own

own hand, and that he ravaged the country of the Picts: but at length Cerdic the Saxon, having supplies continually crowded to his assistance, so far got the better of him, that the Britons despaired of ever recovering their country, and retired into Wales. Cerdic died in 334, at which time Modred, who was nephew to Arthur, joined the Saxons and Picts, against his uncle. Both the uncle and nephew met in an engagement, when Modred was killed on the spot, and Arthur received a mortal wound, of which he soon after died, in the 90th year of his age, and 34th of his reign. This King it is said, instituted the order of *Knights of the Round Table*, so famous in romances. Rapin is of opinion, that these fictions arose from the affection and veneration the Britons had for him who would not believe him dead, 'till his tomb was found in the reign of Henry II. 600 years after his decease, After the death of Cadwallader, which

happened in the year 680, the Saxons were left entire masters of England, and therefore we return to the Saxon Kings.

EGBERT the Great, properly called the first King of England, was the son of Alomund, and of the royal family of Wessex; but Brithric having usurped the crown he was sentenced to lose his head; he, however escaped the fury of his enemies by flying to Osa, and afterwards to Charlemagne, King of France, and founder of the western empire. Upon the murder of Brithric in 801, he returned to Britain, where he was received with joy, and crowned, King of Wessex; and having in the several European courts learned all the arts of peace and war, he by the justice and clemency of his government, secured the affection of his people, and by their assistance conquered the Britons who inhabited the coast of Cornwall and Wales; but these in after ages recovered their independency. In 823, he

the SAXONS in ENGLAND. 39

he defeated Witglaph, King of the Mercians, and having conquered his kingdom; he, in 825, turned his arms against the King of Kent, East Anglia and Essex, and made himself master of their territories. In 827 he advanced against the Northumbrians, who submitted without opposition, and the next year became sole Monarch of South Britain; to which he gave the name of England. He remained in the peaceable possession of his extensive dominions till the year 833, when the Danes made a descent into England, and defeated the army he sent against them; but they did not long enjoy the fruits of their victory; for two years after, Egbert having routed them, drove them back to their ships; and they never dared return during his reign. In short he enjoyed his conquests about eight years, died in 838, and was interred at Winchester.

ETHELWULF, the son of Egbert

E 3

the

the Great, succeeded his father in 838. He had been bishop of Winchester, and was esteemed a pious, wise, and peaceable Prince. The Danes invading England, and plundering London, in 851, cut most of them to pieces, and they returning about two years after, he gained two such signal victories over them, that according to some historians, not one of them escaped to acquaint their countrymen with the news. This King freed the church lands from all tribute and regal services; but afterwards going to Rome with his son Alfred, and being kindly received by Pope Leo IV. he rendered his kingdom tributary to the papal see, and obliged every family in his dominions to pay to the pope one shilling annually, which was called Rome's Scot or Peter pence, and was regularly paid about 680 years, *i. e.* till the reign of Henry VIII. On his return to England he divided the kingdom in his absence, in
order

order to avoid a civil war. He died in 875, after a reign of 21 years, and left behind him four sons, viz. Ethelbald, Ethelbert, Ethelred, and Alfred; the two first of whom divided the kingdom; Kent, Sussex, Surrey, and Essex being bequeathed to Ethelbert his second son.

ETHELBALD had neither the piety nor valour of his father or grandfather, and was despised by his subjects. Soon after the death of his father, he married his mother-in-law, but after a reign of three years, dying without issue, the whole kingdom devolved to his brother Ethelbert.

ETHELBERT was a wise, valiant, and pious prince. During his reign the Danes invaded England again, and burnt Winchester to the ground, but were soon after totally routed by Ethelbert. He reigned only six years, and died in 866.

ETHELDRED I. who was a val-

liant, prudent, pious Prince, now ascended the throne; which he had no sooner obtained, than the Danes ravaged the east part of England, plundered the city of York, and wintered in Mercia. The next year they laid waste all the country till they came into Wessex, where nine battles were fought: in one of which Etheldred killed one of their Kings, nine Earls, and a great number of common soldiers; but about fourteen days after, in another battle, the Danes routed his army, and Etheldred himself was slain (though some say he died of the plague) in 872, and in the 6th year of his reign.

ALFRED the Great, so called from his great and many virtues, next ascended the throne. He was adorned with every qualification requisite to form a good King; and had, in the life time of his three brothers, fought with distinguished bravery against the Danes; but was now so closely pressed by those
numerous

numerous invaders, that he was obliged to compound with them for one part of his kingdom, and even of that he was in a little time dispossessed: he was, however dearly beloved by his people, among whom he wandered about in disguise, still watching the motions and behaviour of the Danes; and one day having dressed himself like a poor harper, he entered the Danish camp, where beholding their negligence and disorder, he collected his scattered forces, and gave them such a total overthrow, that he brought them entirely under his subjection, and obliged them either to be baptized, or to quit his dominions. Affairs being thus happily settled, he employed his time in making good laws, and encouraging Arts and Sciences; for which purpose he divided the natural day into three parts, eight hours of which he spent in study and contemplation, eight in affairs of State, and the other eight

he allowed himself for sleep, recreation, and the care of his own affairs. He instituted juries, divided the kingdom in shires, tythings, and hundreds; he built and endowed two magnificent abbies, rebuilt the city of London, which had been destroyed during the wars. in the year 886 he founded the university of Oxford; and in the year 900 died in peace, aged 52, and in the 28th year of his reign.

EDWARD, surnamed the elder, succeeded his father Alfred; and tho' he was inferior in learning, equalled him in valour, piety, and the love he bore to his subjects. He obliged the Welsh to return to their allegiance, defeated the Danes, and kept them in subjection; obliged Constantine II. King of Scotland to sue for peace, and to do him homage, and having reigned 24 years, died in 925.

ALHELSTAN, the natural son of Edward, succeeded him on the throne, the

(the legitimate Prince being very young) and was beloved, not only by his people, but by most of the Princes in Europe. In one battle which he fought with the Danes and Scots, he killed seven of their Kings or Chiefs, whose tombs are now to be seen at Axminster in Devonshire; he obliged Scotland and Wales to pay him tribute, and caused the Bible to be translated into English. In this time lived Guy Earl of Warwick, famous for conquering Colbrand the Danish giant and champion near the walls of Winchester. This King died 941, and in the sixteenth year of his reign.

EDMUND I. called Pious, who was legitimate son of King Edward next ascended the throne. He was a good Prince, and distinguished himself by his bravery and success against his enemies, and by adding many admirable laws to those of King Alfred. He defeated the Northumbrians who

E 6

had

had revolted, and gave Cumberland and Westmoreland to Malcolm, King of Scotland: but obliged him to do homage for them. This King, in the year 947, and the sixth of his reign, was murdered at a feast by one Leolt, a vile fellow whom he had banished; and left behind him two sons, Edwin and Edgar, who were both thought too young at that time to succeed him.

EDRED his brother therefore ascended the throne, who after he had reduced the Northumbrian Danes to his obedience, devoted himself to a religious life; built and endowed several churches and monasteries, and died in the year 955, having reigned about seven years.

EDWIN, the eldest son of Edmund succeeded his uncle Edred. He had a graceful person, whence he obtained the surname of the Fair; but being lewd and irreligious, his subjects rebelled against him, and made his brother

ther King upon which he died of grief, after a reign of four years.

EDGAR, surnamed the Peaceable, was crowned before his brother's death, and proved a most accomplished, valiant, and prudent Prince. He recalled St. Dunstan, whom his brother had banished, restored the privileges of the church, and lived in peace by being always prepared for war. He defended the coasts with his fleets, freed the country from robbers, punished such magistrates as suffered themselves to be corrupted, travelled the country himself to administer justice, and changed the annual tribute of specie and cattle due from the Welsh into 300 wolves heads, and by that means entirely destroyed all those ravenous beasts. These prudent measures so increased his power, that without making war he assumed the title of Sovereign of the whole island, reduced all his neighbours to his obedience, and it is said
was

was rowed in his barge up the river Dee, by eight petty kings. He reigned sixteen years, and died in 975.

EDWARD II. called the younger, and the Martyr, succeeded his father Edgar; but being of a mild and easy disposition, he left the government of the kingdom in a great measure to his step-mother Elfrida; who, in the fourth year of his reign had him murdered, while he was drinking on horseback, to make room for her own son.

ETHELRED II. who next ascended the throne, and was son to Edgar by Elfrida, was a covetous indolent coward. By a secret inhuman commission, he caused all the Danes to be massacred, who had settled in England; which induced Sweyn, King of Denmark, to invade his dominions; and as Ethelred was despised, and hated by his subjects, Sweyn easily prevailed, and having defeated his forces, obliged him to pay 30,000*l.* raised on the
the

the English by a tax called Danegelt, with which booty Sweyn failed to Denmark, but returned the next year with a more powerful army, and entirely conquered the kingdom. Upon this, Ethelred flew into Normandy; but on the death of Sweyn, which happened soon after, he returned. and died in England in the year 1016, having reigned thirty-seven years.

EDMUND II. his son, turnamed Ironside, from his extraordinary strength and valour, was one of the greatest captains of his age; but he had the misfortune to be opposed by enemies who were too powerful. He, however, gained three complete victories over the Danes under Canute the son of Sweyn, and obliged him to raise the siege he had laid to London. But not making proper use of those advantages, and being imposed upon by the councils of his brother-in-law Eadric, who sought his friendship only to betray him, he
was

was afterwards defeated by Canute, and his affairs were in such a wretched situation, that his friends were obliged to leave him, and submit to the conqueror. Edmund, however collected together such of his subjects as still continued faithful, in order to engage the enemy, and perceiving Canute at the head of his army, rode off from his own forces to meet him; and Canute advancing with the same intent, a furious battle ensued. in which, neither having the advantage, they agreed to divide the kingdom between them. Poor Edmund, however, enjoyed his share but a few days for that villain Edric, his brother-in-law, got him assassinated by two of his domestics.

This he did to ingratiate himself with Canute, who being of a generous disposition, abhorred the action: and instead of rewarding Edric, ordered his head to be cut off the first opportunity he had and fixed upon one of the highest

highest gates in London. The valiant and good Edmund was murdered in 1017, after having reigned almost a year.

Of the DANISH Kings of ENGLAND.

THE Danes had contended for the crown of England upwards of 200 years, in which time were fought fifty-four battles by land, and thirty-eight by sea, besides skirmishes and sieges, attended with the loss of an infinite number of men; yet they possessed it only four years under the three following monarchs, viz. Canute, Harold, and Hardicanute.

CANUTE the Great, on the death of Edmund, succeeded to the throne; being in the year 1017 elected King, notwithstanding Edmund and Edward the sons of the late King Edmund, were living; and by this election an end was put to the war. Matters being thus

thus settled, Canute began to ingratiate himself with his new subjects; and by rebuilding their cities, churches, and abbies, lessening their taxes, and by intrusting them with the highest offices, and even with the command of his armies, he soon won the hearts of the English, by whose assistance he obliged the King of Scotland to pay him tribute, and conquered Norway. Though this King beheaded the traitor Edric for the murder of Edmund, yet it is supposed, that he himself was concerned in that diabolical deed; and that he afterwards sent away his two sons, Edmund and Edward, to be murdered, tho' they providentially escaped. We are told, however, that he sincerely repented of this crime, and built a church over Edmund's tomb, which place he called St. Edmund Bury. Towards the latter end of his life, he became humble, just, and truly pious. As he was one day standing by the sea shore

shore, a flatterer in his train told him that he was King of both earth and sea: Upon which, sitting down, he ordered the tide not to wet his feet, nor proceed any farther; but staying there till the water surrounded him, he, turning to the flatterer, said, *See here, how vain is earthly grandeur, and how weak all human force! God alone is King of the Land, and of the Sea, and him let us worship and adore.* This King died in 1036, after a reign of nineteen years, and left behind him three sons, Swanus, Harold, and Hardicanute; to the first of whom he bequeathed the kingdom of Norway, to the second England, and to the last Denmark.

HAROLD I. who succeeded to the throne in consequence of his father's will, was so impious, cruel, unjust, dissolute, and mean spirited, that his subjects were going to depose him, when death delivered them of their obnoxious burthen. He died in the
year

year 1029, and in the third of his reign.

HARDICANUTE was the third and last Danish Monarch that reigned in England, and was, if possible, a wretch of worse qualities than his brother Harold, whose body he caused to be dug up and thrown into the river Thames, which being found by a fisherman, was delivered to the Danes, and by them buried in the church called St. Clement Danes. He imposed an exorbitant tax on the English of 32,147l. and plundered and burnt the city of Worcester for refusing to pay their portion of it. He died suddenly at a banquet in Lambeth, in 1041, and in the third year of his reign, either of eating and drinking to excess, or of a strong poison, to the great joy of the English. The government of the Danes was now become so odious, that the chief men of the kingdom made a law, or at least entered into an agreement, that no other person of that nation

tion should ever wear the crown; and that whoever proposed it should be looked upon as an enemy to his country, and guilty of high-treason. This is the language of the historians: but how such a law or compact could be carried into execution, when the nation was so full of Danes, is to me amazing: and cannot be accounted for, unless we suppose the Danes themselves were tired of their own vicious Kings. In short, this is one of the most dark and perplexing periods in the English history, and therefore we must leave it to those who have more learning and sagacity, as well as more room for disquisitions of this nature.



The SAXON LINE restored.

EDWARD III. surnamed the confessor, and son of Ethelred, was on the death of Hardicanute elected King; which was chiefly occasioned by the intrigues of Earl Goodwin, whose daughter he had promised to marry. In his reign the Danes, Scots, and Welsh, entered England at different times, and committed great outrages; but Edward and his Generals bravely defeated them all. Among these Generals, mention ought to be made of Siward, Earl of Northumberland, who routed the Scots, and killed Macbeth their King; and of Harold, son of Goodwin, who of his own accord raised an army in the districts under his command, with which he vanquished the joint forces of Afskan and English

The SAXON LINE restored. 57

English nobleman, and Griffin King of Wales, who had entered England, and plundered Hereford. When peace was restored to his dominions, he collected all the good laws made by his predecessors, whether Britons, Romans, Saxons, or Danes, and adding more of his own, formed them into one body, which he called *The Common Law of ENGLAND*. He built Westminster Abbey, (with a sepulchre for himself) and the church of St Margaret which stand near it. He was the first King of England who touched for the evil, and was by the church esteemed a great Saint; he was, however, guilty of some acts of cruelty; for he seized the possessions of Queen Emma, his mother, and allowed her only a small pension for life: nay some historians say, that he accused her of being concerned in an infamous affair with Alwin, Bishop of Winchester, and that she was tried for adultery by the Ordeal or fiery trial, that

that is to say, nine red-hot plough-shares laid at unequal distances, over which the criminal was obliged to pass blindfold, and bare-footed; which she is said to have done unhurt, and was therefore declared innocent. But this, though asserted by some authors with great gravity, is too absurd and ridiculous to be believed. He refused to cohabit with his wife Editha, some say from a religious veneration of chastity; but the general and most probable opinion is, that he avoided her because she was, as it were, forced upon him by the intrigues of Earl Goodwin her father, and that he could not bear the company of a woman, whose father had murdered his brother. Earl Goodwin knew that the King suspected him of being concerned in that murder, and, it is said, in order to clear himself of that suspicion, he one day, at the King's table, took up a piece of bread, and wished it might choke him.

if he was ever concerned in the murder of that Prince, and died with the next morsel he eat. This story, however, is told but by a few historians, and the truth of it is to be doubted. He reigned twenty-four years, and died without issue in 1065, and in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

HAROLD II. son of Earl Godwin was so well beloved by the people that he was unanimously elected King, notwithstanding that Edward Atheling, grandson to Edmund Ironside, the right heir, was living, and that the late King had bequeathed the crown by will, to his friend William, Duke of Normandy. Edgar was unable to assertain his right to the crown by force of arms; but William Duke of Normandy, (whom Harold had once, when in distress, sworn not to oppose) sent ambassadors to reproach Harold with the violation of his oath, and to demand the crown: offering at the

F

same

same time to leave the right of succession to the determination of the Pope, or to try it by single combat, which being refused, William applied to Tosti, who was Harold's brother but sworn enemy, for assistance. as Tosti had married the daughter of Baldwin, Earl of Flanders, that Earl lent him a body of forces, with which he landed in England, but was defeated, upon which Tosti applied first to the King of Scotland, and afterwards to Harold Harfager, King of Norway, and proposed to him the conquest of England. Harfager joined Tosti, and embarking his forces on board three hundred ships, came into England and took York: but in a pitched battle routed his whole army, and both Harfager and Tosti were slain. This success, it is thought, rendered Harold both insolent and careless, for he imprudently, and indeed, unjustly, kept the whole plunder of the field, without distributing any part

The SAXON LINE restored. 61

part among his soldiers, upon which they grew discontented and unruly.

WILLIAM, Duke of Normandy, was all this time strengthening his army, and having obtained forces from the neighbouring Princes, he fitted out a strong fleet, and on the 29th of September landed at Pevancy in Sussex; thence proceeding to Hastings, he built a strong fort, and, in the place called Battle-Field, engaged the army of Harold, when a most bloody battle ensued; which, though lost, was fought with the utmost bravery by the English, notwithstanding the dislike they had conceived to Harold. In this engagement William had three horses killed under him, and a great number of his Normans slain; and Harold lost his life, together with the lives of many of the nobility, and about 60,000 soldiers. Historians tell us that the loss of this battle was in a great measure owing to a long peace which

English had enjoyed, and in which they had neglected the military arts, and abandoned themselves to luxury and idleness; and to this, we may suppose, the licentiousness of the clergy, the effemacy, gluttony, and oppression of the nobility, and the drunkenness and dissolute behaviour of the common people, did not a little contribute. It is likewise to be observed, that the Normans had the advantage of the long bows, of the use of which the English were then ignorant. But notwithstanding the English with bills, their ancient weapons, kept so close together, that they were impregnable; and the Normans would never have obtained the victory, had they not pretended to fly, and by that means brought the English into a disorder.

WILLIAM, notwithstanding this victory turned so much out in his favour, could have little hopes of gaining the throne by right of conquest,
and

and therefore he gave out that he came to revenge the death of Prince Alfred, brother to King Edward; to restore Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury to his see, and to claim the crown as his right, it having been bequeathed him by Edward the Confessor. He cannot therefore, I think, with any propriety, be called the Conqueror; for these motives engaged many of the English in his favour, who considered that he had at least as much right to it as Harold, and they made him conform to their terms, and agree to govern them by the laws of Edward the Confessor, before they would admit him to the throne.

The body of Harold was found after the engagement, and buried in Waltham-Abbey, which he had founded.



I. WILLIAM *the CONQUEROR,*
from 1066 to 1087.



WILLIAM, a spurious branch of Rollo's race,
From Norman's Duke to England's King we
trace,
He conquered Saxon Harold, seiz'd the throne,
Was brave, but proud, and partial to his own.

WILLIAM I. *commonly called the*
 CONQUEROR.

THIS Prince was the natural son of Robert Duke of Normandy, by Alletta, a furrier's daughter. Harold being slain in battle, William who was about 52 years of age, marched directly to London, where he claimed the crown by the testament of King Edward the Confessor. On his way to that city. he was met by a large body of the men of Kent, each with a bough or limb of a tree in his hand. This army was headed by Stigard, the Archbishop, who made a speech to the Conqueror, in which he boldly demanded the preservation of their liberties, and set him know that they were resolved rather to die than part with their laws and live in bondage.

WILLIAM thought proper to grant their demands, and suffered them to retain their ancient customs.

Upon

Upon his coronation at Westminster, he was sworn to govern by the laws of the realm, and though he introduced some new forms, yet he preserved to the English their trials by juries, and the borough law. He instituted the courts of Chancery and Exchequer; but at the same time disarmed his English subject and forbid their having any light in their houses after eight o'clock at night, when a bell was rung, called Curfew or cover fire, at the sound of which all were obliged to put out their fires and candles. He conquered several powers who invaded England; obliged the Scots to preserve the peace they had broken: compelled the Welsh to pay him tribute; refused himself to pay homage to the Pope; built the tower of London; and had all public acts made in the Norman Tongue. He oppressed the people by taxes, and made a law by which every man who killed a deer was to have his eyes put out

out. He caused all England to be surveyed and rated, and the men numbered in a work called Doomsday-book, which is still in being.

To curb the insolence of the French, who had invaded Normandy, and after that to reduce his son Robert, who appeared in arms against him, he carried over with him an English army and left his own troops at home. William in a general engagement had like to have been killed by his son; but Robert, when he found that he was engaged with his father, dutifully submitted to him though he was victorious.

WILLIAM invaded France, and taking Mantes in August 1081, he ordered it to be reduced to ashes: but approaching so near the flames, that the heat of the fire together with the warmth of the season, threw him into a fever, which being increased by a fall from his horse on his return to Roan, he died in a village near that city, the

63 WILLIAM I.

9th of September following, in the 61st year of his age, after a reign of 52 years in Normandy, and 21 in England, and was buried at Caen.

WILLIAM was tall, broad set, and of great strength. His passions were violent. He had much wisdom, but more dissimulation; great wealth, but greater avarice; was fond of fame, but severe to his opponents in war.

In this reign Richard, the King's second son, was killed by a stag in the New Forest. There was a great fire in London which consumed St. Paul's; and an earthquake which happened on a Christmas-Day.

H. WILLIAM

W
He
Was
And

II. WILLIAM *the* SECOND,
from 1087, to 1100



WILLIAM the Second won but little fame;
He built that Hall which Westminster we name,
Was valiant, rash, intemperate and vain,
And was by Tyrrell in New Forest slain.

W I L L I A M II.

WILLIAM the second surviving son of William the Conqueror, who was from the colour of his hair surnamed Rufus or Red, succeeded his father in 1087. He was then thirty years of age; and at the same time his brother Robert succeeded to the Duchy of Normandy. Robert resolved to assert his right of primogeniture to the crown of England, and several of the Norman nobility espoused his cause; but William put an end to the rebellion, by defeating a body of troops in Kent; and soon after, partly by force, and partly by bribery, obliged his brother to conclude a peace. The two brothers then made war on their younger brother Henry, whom they besieged in mount St. Michael; where William one morning riding out unattended, fell in with a party of Henry's Soldiers,

and

and endeavoured to force his way thro' them, but was dismounted, and a soldier was going to dispatch him, when he cried out, "Hold fellow, I am the King of England." On this the man dropping his sword, raised the Monarch from the ground, and received from him the honour of knighthood, and other favours. The brothers were soon reconciled, and William turned his arms against Scotland, and defeated the army of their King Malcolm; that Prince and his son being just before killed in an ambush laid by Mowbray, the Governor of Northumberland. Soon after Robert de Mowbray, finding that the King had neglected to reward his services, joined with several other Noblemen to set the crown on the head of Stephen, grandson to William the Conqueror: upon which the King marched into Yorkshire, reduced Bamborough castle, took Mowbray prisoner, and put an end to the rebellion.

G

At

72 WILLIAM II.

At length, as William was hunting in the New Forest, he was slain with an arrow shot by Walter Tyrrell, his particular favorite; who, aiming at a deer, struck the king full in the breast, and he immediately expired, on the second of August, 1100, aged 44, after a reign of 13 years, and was conveyed to Winchester in a collier's cart.

III. HENRY

III. HENRY *the* FIRST,
from 1100 to 1135.



Learned and polite, the Conqueror's youngest son
By wisdom kept the crown his wiles had won.
Brave, handsome, sober, to his subjects kind,
Yet faithless covetous, to lust inclin'd.

H E N R Y I.

THIS Prince, the youngest son of William the Conqueror, was, on account of his great learning, surnamed Beauclerk. He was born at Selby in Yorkshire in 1070; and the English looking upon him as their natural Prince, raised him to the throne in 1100, though his eldest brother Robert was living, but he was engaged in the Holy Land. Henry was at that time 30 years of age, and had before shewn himself a politic and brave Prince. He was no sooner seated on the throne, than he began to make amendments in the laws of the realm, and to abolish some abuses which had crept into the church. About this time Robert returning from Jerusalem, Henry endeavoured to secure himself on the throne by marrying the Princess Matilda, daughter to Malcolm King

King of Scotland, by Margaret the sister of Edward Atheling.

Duke Robert, however, being determined to revive his claim, landed at Portsmouth in 1102; but when both armies were ready to engage, a treaty was proposed to save the effusion of blood; and it was agreed, that Henry should retain his kingdom, relinquish to Robert the possession of Normandy, and pay him 3000 marks a year; and that if one of the brothers died without children, the other should succeed him in his dominions. Robert afterwards being disturbed by a formidable insurrection, and having deprived himself of all Normandy, except the the city of Roan, by mortgaging it to to pay his debts, applied to his brother for assistance; on which Henry levied an army, passed into Normandy, seized several cities, and on his return to England, was followed by his brother, as a suppliant to a Conqueror

for mercy; but Henry was deaf to all his intreaties; on which Robert returned, and obtained assistance of France and some of the neighbouring Princes; but Henry going with an army to Normandy, totally defeated the allies, took the Duke himself prisoner, siezed upon his dominions, and confined him in Cardiff Castle, Wales. Some time after, Henry's only son William, and the Countess of Perche, his natural daughter, in their passage by sea from Barfleur to England, were unfortunately drowned; which gave Henry such deep affliction, that according to some historians, he was never after seen to laugh. His brother Robert after a confinement of 27 years, and the most severe and cruel treatment, died in prison, and his death was soon followed by that of Henry, who fell ill by eating to excess of some lampreys at his castle of Lyon near Roan, which carried him off in seven days. He died

died on the 1st of December, 1135, in the 68th year of his age, and the 36th of his reign; and was buried at Reading, in a monastery of his own founding. The Empress Maud was his only legitimate child then living, though he had twelve natural children.

HENRY was very learned, and had so great a regard for the sciences, that he built a palace at Oxford, whether he often retired. He had black hair, was of a middling stature, had a handsome person an engaging deportment; but these accomplishments were sullied by his cruelty, avarice, and inordinate love of women.

In his reign, Winchester, Gloucester, and Worcester were burnt. The Thames, Medway and Trent were almost dried up. In the 33d year of his reign London was burnt from Westcheap to Aldgate.

IV. S T E P H E N,
from 1135 to 1155.



Valiant and prudent, but of dubious right,
Which oft, with various chance was try'd in fight
At length, his own son dead, this Prince agreed,
That Henry, son of Maud, should him succeed.

S T E P H E N.

THE Norman government, which had subsided sixty-nine years in England, was now extinct. The Empress Maud, or Matilda, succeeded her father in his Dutchy of Normandy; but though her right to the crown of England had been recognized in parliament, Stephen, Earl of Bologne, the third son of the Earl of Blois, by Adela, daughter to William the Conqueror, got possession of the throne, and was crowned on the 22d of December 1135. Stephen revived the favourite laws of Edward the Confessor. In this reign, the insolence of the Clergy obliged Stephen to seize the castles belonging to the Bishops of Salisbury, Lincoln and Ely. The spirit of rebellion upon this occasion prevailed. and the Empress Maud seized the opportunity of asserting in person a right to the crown. The King besieged the Empress in Wallingford,

ford, pursued her to Lincoln, and gave battle to the Earl of Gloucester before that city, when the King was taken prisoner; before which he had broke his battle axe and sword, and was knocked down on his knees with a stone. He was then confined in irons in Winfor castle.

MAUD was now acknowledged sovereign, but behaved with great haughtiness: King Stephen's consort humbly intreated her to set her husband at liberty, promising that he should resign his crown and end his days in a monastery; but she dismissed her with such contempt, that the late Queen recovering resolution, raised a large body of forces; and Maud refusing to mitigate the severity of the Norman laws, a revolt ensued, and the King was set at liberty. All the adherents to Maud were at length obliged to retire to Normandy; however, the young Prince Henry her son, obtaining assistance from

from France, returned to England ; but when both Princes were preparing for battle, a truce was agreed on, and it was stipulated that the King should enjoy the crown during his life, and that after his decease Henry should succeed to the throne. Stephen died on the 25th of October at Canterbury, in the 50th year of his age; and the 19th of his reign, and was buried in the abbey of Feversham in Kent,

In this reign there was a great fire in London ; the city of York was burnt to the ground ; Rochester was also burnt to the ground.

V. HENRY *the* SECOND.
from 1154 to 1189.



First of Plantagenets, now HENRY reigns,
Fam'd for his pow'r, his lust, and large domain
A priest impious vex'd him all his life,
His sons prov'd rebels, and a threw his wife.

H E N R Y II.

HENRY PLANTAGENET, the son of the Empress Maud by Geoffrey Earl of Anjou, was crowned in 1154, in the 23d year of his age. In 1159, Henry concluded a marriage between his son and Margaret daughter of the French King, though the young Prince was only five years of age, and the Princess but six months old. The Duke of Britany also gave his daughter Constance in marriage to Geoffrey, another of Henry's sons. then in his cradle.

HENRY was disturbed at home by the arrogance of Thomas Becket, whom he raised from a mean degree to the see of Canterbury and the dignity of High Chancellor. The dispute ran so high, that the Archbishop was obliged to fly the kingdom. The affair, however, being at length determined,
Becket

signs,
domain
se,
is wife.

Becket returned to England, and raised such disturbances, that four Knights thinking to please the King, murdered him in his Cathedral of Canterbury. This prelate was afterwards honoured with the title of Martyr, and canonized by the name of St. Thomas of Canterbury.

Henry sailed with a numerous fleet to Ireland. and landing at Waterford on the 18th of October .1172, all the Irish Princes voluntarily swore allegiance to him; so that he became master of that kingdom without blood shed, and divided great part of the country among the English nobles, &c. who attended him in the expedition; from whom sprung the principal families in Ireland. The same year the Pope's legate prevailed on the King to do penance by going barefoot three miles to Becket's shrine; and to be scourged by the Augustine Monks. who gave him fourscore lashes on his naked back.

Henry

Henry met with great vexations in his own family; Eleanor his Queen, being jealous of Rosamond, the Lord Clifford's daughter, who was the King's mistress, and whom he kept at Woodstock in a labyrinth built to secure her from the Queen's rage, found means to dispatch her by poison; and the young Princes his sons, being joined by several of the nobility, and assisted by the King's of France and Scotland, raised a great rebellion. King Henry, however, took the King of Scotland prisoner, and became master of the principal places in Guienne, Anjou, Poictou, and Britany, restored the young Princes to favour, and pardoned all the revolvers; but obliged the King of Scotland to pay him homage for his kingdom.

Henry was so mortified at the disobedience of his sons, that thro' grief he fell sick at Chinon in Tourains, and perceiving his end draw near, gave orders for his being carried into the church

church, where he expired before the altar, on the 6th of July, 1189, in the 57th year of his age and 35th of his reign,. He was stripped by his domestics, and left quite naked in the church; but was afterward buried at Fonteveraud in Anjou.

Henry was of a middle stature, his hair was bushy, he had a Roman nose, and his legs were somewhat deformed: he was valiant and learned, prudent and polite, generous, and of a mild disposition; among his vices, lust was his predominant passion.

In his reign lions were first kept in the Tower of London. London bridge was rebuilt with timber. There was an earthquake, by which the church of Lincoln and several others were destroyed.

VI. RICHARD *the* FIRST.
from 1189 to 1199.



RICHARD, for bold'rous courage chiefly known
Wasted his years in countries not his own;
A pris'ner long, at last untimely slain;
England had small advantage from his reign.

RICHARD

RICHARD I.

RICHARD, the eldest son of Henry II. who was from his bravery surnamed Cœur de Lion. or Lion-hearted, was 32 years of age when his father died. He was crowned in Westminster Abbey on the 3d of September 1189. On the day of his coronation the Jews of London flocking to make presents to him, the mob robbed and murdered all they met with, plundered and set fire to their houses. At York 500 Jews, besides women and children, shut themselves up in the castle, and there died by their own hands, rather than submit to their persecutors.

Richard had no sooner ascended the throne, than he went to the Holy War in conjunction with Philip King of France. RICHARD being driven by contrary winds to the isle of Cyprus landed his troops there, and took Isaac the

the King of that island, and his daughter prisoners; conquered the whole country, was made King, and afterwards transferred his right to that of Guy Lusignan, titular King of Jerusalem, in exchange for that empty title. Hence the English Monarchs were for a long time stiled Kings of Jerusalem.

RICHARD sailed from Cyprus to Palestine, where he joined the French King, &c. and was very instrumental in the reduction of the city of Acre; before which place above 200,000 Christians were killed. He afterwards seized Ascalon, Joppy, and Cæsarea.

In the absence of Richard, which lasted four years, Prince John, his brother, usurped the sovereign authority; but the King soon suppressed his brother's party, levied a numerous army, and invaded France: and at the battle of Blois, Richard took all the archives of the French kingdom. After which he was preparing to return to England

England, when a gentleman of Limosin having discovered a treasure upon his estate, the King claimed it as a fovereign of Guienne: the gentleman took shelter in the castle of Chaluz, which the King besieged; in reconnoitering the walls, he received a wound, of which he died on the 6th of April 1199, aged 42, after a reign of nine years and nine months. The castle being taken before the King died, he ordered all the garrison to be hanged, but pardoned the man that wounded him.

He appointed by will his brother John to succeed him in all his dominions.

VII. JOHN, *from 1199 to 1216.*



JOHN

John's reign was full of troubles and turmoils,
from his bad conduct. and from priestly wiles;
England's great Charter, by the Barons won,
he gave; but to the Pope resigned his crown.

J O H N.

JOHN, surnamed Lackland, the brother of Richard, ascended the throne without much opposition in 1199 for though Arthur, Duke of Britany, son of Geoffrey, the late Kings brother had the hereditary right, yet John was elected King, on condition that he should restore and establish the rights of the people. He was then 32 years of age, and having also seized the dutchy of Normandy, he left Arthur only the possession of some of the provinces enjoyed by the English in France.

John had several contests with the Pope, who had excommunicated him, and absolved the people of England from their oath of allegiance, and now sent Pandulph his Nuncio into England, who offered him the Pope's protection, on condition of his taking an oath to obey the Pontiff in all things, and
 resign

resign
 Nun
 paire
 prese
 crow
 of R
 of th
 thron
 wher
 Engl
 to the
 a vas
 Engl
 then
 perso
 crown
 session
 Th
 digna
 to arr
 ment
 fessor,
 Henry
 by th

resign his crown into the hands of the Nuncio. To this John consented, repaired to Dover church, and in the presence of the people took off his crown, disrobed himself of all his ensigns of Royalty, and laide them at the feet of the Nuncio, who was seated on a throne, after which he signed a charter, whereby he resigned the kingdom of England and the lordship of Ireland to the Holy See, and bound himself as a vassal to pay 700 marks annually for England, and 300 for Ireland, and then did homage to the Pope in the person of his Nuncio, who kept the crown and scepter five days in his possession.

The English Barons, fired with indignation at this meanness, had recourse to arms, and demanded a re-establishment of the laws of Edward the Confessor, and a renewal of the charter of Henry the First: which being refused by the King, they elected Robert Fitzwalter

Fitzwalter for their General, entered London, and besieged him in the Tower. The King complied, when he could no longer resist, and agreed to meet the Barons in Runnemead, or the Mead of Council, between Stains and Windsor; and there being unable to obtain supplies from his people, and also too weak to withstand them, granted whatever they desired, and hence arose the famous charter of liberties, called Magna Charta, which he was obliged to sign, and also the charter of the liberties of the forest, which have been since esteemed the foundation of the English liberties. The king, however, though he had ratified these charters with a solemn oath, brought over an army from Flanders, and ravaged the whole kingdom; upon this the Barons applied for assistance from the king of France, promising the crown to his son Lewis, if he freed them from John's tyranny. Lewis
soon

soon came to their assistance, landed at Sandwich, and took Rochester, while John retired to Winchester, having prevailed upon the Pope to excommunicate both the French King and the English Barons; but being deserted by some of his mercenaries, the Dauphin besieged Dover, while the Barons invested Windsor; after which the country was ravaged by both parties, who came to no engagement. At length grief and fatigue threw the King into a fever, which is said to have been heightened by eating of peaches and drinking new ale. He died on the 18th of October 1216, in the 51st year of his age, and the 17th of his reign.

In this reign London-bridge which was before of wood was built entirely of stone.

VIII. HENRY *the* THIRD,
from 1216 to 1272.



This King chief note in history does ga
From civil discords, and the longest reign,
Fickle and weak, he saw his crown just gone;
Yet dying, left it to his warlike son.

H E N R Y I I I .

HENRY of Winchester was but twelve years of age. when the Earl of Pembroke had him crowned at Gloucester on the 28th of October 1216. The usual oath was administered, and the Legate caused him to do homage to the Holy See. Many of the Barons who had sworn allegiance to the Dauphin joined with Henry, and the Pope renewed his excommunication against Lewis: after this a truce was concluded and prolonged till Easter; soon after which, the French laid siege to Lincoln castle, but being unsuccessful in that and some other attempts, Lewis was obliged to come to a composition, and agreed to return home, and to restore the English dominion in France.

Henry began his majority with exacting large sums, and annulling the two sacred charters granted by his fa-

H 2

ther

ther. He landed in Britany with a numerous army, and then spending his his time with diversions, shamefully returned, after he had spent all his treasure. He afterwards renewed the war in which he lost Poictou, and then concluded a truce with Lewis for five years, to purchase which Henry consented to pay him 5000l. annually.

The King met with many mortifications from his parliament and people, who at length obligeth him to renew the two charters, which was done in Westminster Hall, in the following manner, viz. the Peers being assembled in the presence of the King, each holding a lighted taper, the Archbishop of Canterbury denounced a terrible curse against those who should violate the laws, or alter the constitution of the kingdom; then the charters were read aloud and confirmed by the King, who all this time kept his hand upon his breast; after which every one threw
his

his taper on the ground, to rise a great smoke and wished *that those who violated the charter might smoke in hell.* After which, the parliament granted him a subsidy for suppressing an insurrection in Guienne. He soon reduced that province and returned to England where he renewed his exactions. Prince Richard, Henry's brother, being elected King of the Romans, took the immense sum of 700,000*l.* into Germany to support his election; while the King amassed 950,000 marks for an expedition to the Two Sicilies which were offered him by the Pope; though the crown belonged to Conradin, the Emperor Conrad's son. In short, the people were grievously oppressed, and the Barons, finding that Henry could not be bound by the most solemn oaths, undertook to reform the government; accordingly commissioners were chosen by the King and the Barons, and articles agreed on; which the King again

broke. At last they came to an open war, when a decisive battle was fought near Lewes in Sussex, in which the King's army was defeated, and himself, Prince Edward, and the King of the Romans taken prisoners; but afterwards the Earls of Leicester and Gloucester quarreling, the latter joined Prince Edward, who had escaped from his keepers, and uniting their forces, marched against the Earl of Leicester, whom they defeated and slew. The King was set at liberty, but peace was not restored 'till some time after, when Prince Edward engaged in a crusade, and went to the Holy Land. Henry died at London, Nov. 20, 1272, aged 65, in the 56th year of his reign, and was buried in Westminster-Abbey.

XI. EDWARD I. *from 1272 to 1307.*



Far distant, when acknowledged, Edward came
Assumed the crown, and ruled with matchless
fame.

Welsh, Scots. he conquered, made and unmade
Kings,

ED- Reform'd the law, and clipt the Clergy's wings.

E D W A R D I.

EDWARD, surnamed Longshanks, was aged 33 when his father died, and was crowned on his return from Palestine, where with only 10,000 Englishmen, he struck a general panic into the Saracens. He narrowly escaped being murdered there by an assassin, from whom he received a wound in his arm which was given by a poisoned dagger; and it is affirmed that he owed his life to the affection of Eleanor his wife, who was with him, and sucked the venom out of the wound. He arrived in England with his faithful Queen on the 25th of July 1274, and they were both crowned at Westminster, on the 19th of August following. He began his reign with a strict enquiry into the affairs of his kingdom, &c. and confirmed the great charter.

He then set about rectifying the coin which

which had been so much adulterated by the Jews, and caused 280 of them to be put to death.

Edward having defeaten and killed Lewellyn, a petty king of Wales, who had revolted, afterwards summoued a parliament at Ruthen, where it was resolved that Wales should inseparably be united to England, but some of the Welsh nobles telling the King that he never would peaceably enjoy their country, 'till they were governed by a Prince of their own nation, he sent for his Queen, who was then pregnant, 'to lie-in at Caernarvon, where she was brought to bed of a Prince, whom the states of Wales acknowledged for their Sovereign; and since that time the eldest sons of the King's of England have borne the title of Prince of Wales. Edward banished 15,000 Jews for usury and adulterating the coin. Soon after this Queen Eleanor died at Grantham in Lincolnshire; to whose memo-

ry the King erected a cross at every place where the corpse rested in its way to Westminster.

Edward carried his arms into Scotland where he took the three important places of Berwick, Dunbar, and Edinburgh. John Baliol their King, who was supported by Edward, repaired to him in the most humble manner, renewed the oath of fealty, and put the whole kingdom in his power. While Edward was in Flanders endeavouring to recover some dominion he had lost in France by treachery, William Wallace, the glory of Scotland, rose up in defence of his country, and having suddenly dispossessed the English of all the strong places they held, was declared regent of the kingdom; on which Edward hastily returned from France, advanced into Scotland at the head of a numerous army, and defeated Wallace, who several years after was betrayed into the hands of the English and sent

sent to London, where Edward treated him with unpardonable severity, and made this great hero suffer the death of a traitor. Edward thrice conquered Scotland, and at length vowed that he would destroy that kingdom from sea to sea, but was seized with a dysentery, and died in the little town of Burgh, on the 7th of July 1307, in the 68th year of his age, and 35th of his reign, but his body was interred in Westminster Abbey.

Edward was a head taller than the generality of men; his person was well made, strong and handsome; but his legs being rather too long, he was thence called Longshanks. His regard for the laws was so great that he publicly imprisoned the Prince of Wales his son, for breaking into the park of the Bishop of Lincoln and Coventry.

X. EDWARD *the* SECOND.
from 1307 to 1327.



●f person comely, but of genius mean,
 Oppos'd by faction, and a faithless Queen ;
 For crimes of fav'rites harass'd and dethron'd,
 Oppress'd by murd'ers, poor Caernarvon groan'd.

E
 hi
 G
 ni
 to
 Ila
 Ki
 W
 13
 Ga
 At
 arr
 Ma
 vic
 the
 Sco
 F
 Spe
 of
 the

E D W A R D II.

EDWARD of Caernarvon was twenty-three years of age when his father died. He recalled Prince Gaveston, whom his father had banished, and by his will enjoined him to associate with; and then married Isabella the daughter of the French King, and they were both crowned at Westminster on the 24th of February, 1308. His ridiculous fondness for Gaveston created innumerable disputes. At length the Barons had recourse to arms, and Gaveston was beheaded. Mean while the Scots gained three victories over the English, and made themselves masters of every place in Scotland.

King Edward now raised the two Spencers, father and son, to the summit of power; but they were banished by the parliament. The King levied an

I

army

army, took some castles from the Barons and recalled the Spencers. Edward afterwards invaded Scotland; but wanting provisions, returned without striking a blow; on which Bruce, King of Scotland pursued him to York, destroyed 20,000 of the English, and then consented to a peace.

The two Spencers incurred the general hatred; and queen Isabella fled to France with her son, whence the nobility sent for her, and she with a numerous army marching towards London, the King fled into the West, but she still pursuing him, he set sail for Ireland, but was driven back into Wales. Hugh Spencer, the father, being taken, was, without a trial, hanged and quartered, and the King himself was sent prisoner to the Queen; and the young Spencer was hanged on a gallows fifty feet high.

The Queen now forgot every call of nature and duty, and was entirely governed

verned by Mortimer, whom she took to her bed. King Edward was deposed, and the son proclaimed King, they having obliged the old king to resign in the 43d year of his age, and the 20th of his reign; after which he was treated with the greatest indignities, and at last cruelly murdered; for some assassins covered him with a feather bed, and held him down, while others thrust a horn pipe up his body, through which they conveyed a red hot iron, and burnt his bowels, to prevent any external appearance of violence.



XI. EDWARD *the* THIRD.

from 1327 to 1377.



Triumphant Edward the Black Prince's fire,
In peace and war we honour and admire ;
France conquer'd, Scots subdu'd, preserve his
name ;
But his last days eclips'd his former fame.

E D W A R D III.

EDWARD of Windsor, was crowned at the age of 14, on the 26th of January, 1327. Though the parliament appointed a regency, the Queen and Roger Mortimer had the sole rule. By their influence the young king renounced all his pretensions to Scotland, and gave his sister in marriage to David Bruce, King of the Scots; but afterwards becoming sensible of his error, he caused the Queen his mother to be confined for life, and Mortimer Earl of March to be hanged at Tyburn. He then broke the truce with Scotland, and invaded that kingdom; won four battles in a short time, and obliged king David to fly with his queen into France, when he set up Edward Baloil in his room. Edward now laid claim to France; for Charles, his mother's brother, dying,

Philip of Valois had possessed himself of the kingdom. alledging the Salick law; but Edward asserted that the Salick law, in excluding females from the succession, did not exclude their male issue, on which he grounded his titles. His first champaign passed without blood-shed; but he took the title of king of France, and quartered his arms with the *Flower de luce*, adding this motto, *Dieu & mon droit*, or, *God and my right*.

In his second attempt he defeated the French fleet, destroyed or took 370 of their ships, and 1300,000 men; then besieged Tournay, but being called home to oppose the Scots, concluded a truce for one year with king Philip. The next champaign he wasted all the country up to the walls of Paris, and obtained the glorious battle of Cressy, which was won by the Prince of Wales, who was then only sixteen. The French were defeated with incredible slaughter.

slaughter. The king of Bohemia also died in the field; when his standard, on which were in gold, three ostriches feathers, with these words: *Ich diem*, that is, *I serve*, was brought to the Prince of Wales; who, in memory of that victory, bore the ostrich feathers in his coronet with the same motto. In this battle the French lost eleven Princes and 30,000 common soldiers, a greater number than the whole army of the conquerors, whose loss was very considerable. When the victory was over, the king tenderly embracing the prince, "My gallant son, said he, you have nobly acquitted yourself, and well are you worthy of the kingdom." Six weeks after this, Edward's queen defeated the Scots, and took king David prisoner. These memorable battles were fought in 1346, Edward then laid siege to Calais, which he was obliged to reduce by famine, and then returned to England. He then sent over

his son the Black Prince, who after taking several towns, totally routed the French army commanded by king John, who had succeeded Philip; and, in this glorious battle, which was fought near Poitiers, took the king, many nobles, and a multitude of private men prisoners, though the French army was six times as numerous as the English.

There were at this time two kings prisoners in England; the French king, who was lodged at the Savoy, which was then a palace; and the king of Scotland who was confined at Oldham in Hampshire. They were both treated with great respect. The French king paid for his ransom 500,000*l*. and a considerable extent of country; and the king of Scots was ransomed for 100,000 marks. The French king afterwards returned to England, and kept his court at the palace of the Savoy, where he died in 1363.

A tedious war was afterwards carried on against the Black Prince by Charles the French king, in which several battles were fought to the disadvantage of the English, who lost all they had so bravely conquered in France, except Calais, to which the death of the Black Prince greatly contributed.

At length Edward, after having settled the succession, was taken ill, and died at Richmond in Surry, on the 21st of June, 1377. in the 65th year of his age, and the 51st of his reign, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. Edward the Black Prince has a monument in the cathedral of Canterbury.

This prince instituted the order of the garter, which is said to have had its rise from the countess of Salisbury's dropping her garter at a ball, which the King taking up, and observing her in confusion, presented it to her, saying, *HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE,*

Evil to him who evil thinks, when observing several of the nobles smile, he added, Many a man has laughed at the garter, who will think it a very great honour to wear such a one.



Ric
Pro
Yet
And

XXI. RICHARD the SECOND,
from 1377 to 1398.



Richard from valiant fire and grandsire sprung
Prov'd weak, perverse and rash, for he was young;
Yet brave, from rebels did defend his throne,
And when deposed lost not his life alone.

RICHARD II.

RICHARD of Bourdeaux, the son of Edward the Black Prince, was but eleven years of age when he was crowned at Westminster, on the 16th of July, 1377. He was put under the tuition of his uncles, John Duke of Lancaster, and Edmund Earl of Cambridge. In this reign a poll Tax was passed, at 12d. per head, on all above the age of sixteen. This being levied with severity, caused an insurrection in Kent and Essex; at the head of which were Wat Tyler and Jack Straw. Tyler refusing to pay for his daughter, alledging she was under the age specified in the act, the collector used her with great indecency; on which Tyler beat out his brains with a hammer; then making known the occasion of the murder, he was soon joined by above 100,000 men, who advanced

advanced to London, cut off the heads of all the lords, gentlemen and lawyers, they met with, and plundered and destroyed many houses, &c. The King himself was obliged to come to a conference with Wat Tyler, in Smithfield; when William Walworth, Mayor of London, gave Tyler such a blow on the head with his sword, that he fell dead at his feet; soon after which they dispersed.

The King knighted Mr. Walworth, and ordered that the Mayor of London should ever after bear the title of Lord, and that the dagger should be added to the city arms, which was before a plain cross.

The rebellion also extended into Norfolk and Suffolk, but it was soon suppressed; and the King sent an army into Kent and Sussex, to punish the ringleaders, and Jack Straw, with about 1500 of his followers, were hanged.

The

The king's fondness for his favourites, Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, whom he created Duke of Ireland, and Michael de la Pole, who was made Earl of Suffolk, raised such discontent that the Barons twice had recourse to arms, and at length obliged the king to take refuge in the tower, and afterwards forced him to resign the crown. Henry, Duke of Hereford, the son of John of Gaunt, was then declared king. Richard was removed to Pontefract castle, where Sir Pierce de Exton, with eight ruffians, in hopes of pleasing Henry rushed in upon him; when Richard resolving to die like a man, wrested a pole-ax from one of them, and laid four of them dead at his feet; but Exton mounting on a chair behind him, gave him so violent a blow on the head with a club, that he fell down senseless, and thus died in the 33d year of his age, after a reign of 22 years.

King Henry IV. ordered his body

to be removed to Westminster-Abbey, and caused a monument to be erected to his memory, and to that of his Queen, in Edward the Confessor's chapel.

In the fourth year of his reign, a mortality almost depopulated the north of England : In his sixth year several churches were thrown down by an earthquake ; In his twelfth year there was a great plague and famine ; and in this reign guns first came into use. It is also worthy of remark, that peaked, high-toed shoes, fastened to the knees with silver chains, were in fashion about the middle of this King's reign ; and soon after side-saddles were introduced by the Queen, a Bohemian Princess ; for before that time the English women rode astride like the men.

XIII. HENRY

XIII. HENRY *the* FOURTH.
from 1399 to 1419.



Lincolnian Henry now the throne possess'd,
A Prince of no mean politics contriv'd,
But courts the priests their favour to engage;
Hence Lollards felt dire persecution's rage.

H E N R Y IV.

HENRY IV. surnamed Bolingbroke, was raised to the throne as a reward for his past services, tho' Edmund Mortimer was presumptive heir to the crown, as being decended from the daughter of Lionel Duke of Clarence, the third son of King Edward III. while Henry Duke of Lancaster, was the son of John of Gaunt, the younger brother of Lionel, and the fourth son of Edward III.

HENRY Duke of Lancaster was proclaimed King on the 30th of September, 1399, the very day on which Richard was deposed.

The Dukes of Albemarle, Surry and Exeter, the Earls of Salisbury and Gloucester, the Bishop of Carlisle, and Sir Thomas Blount, being Richard's friends, formed a conspiracy in the year 1400, in order to assassinate Henry
and

and restore Richard to the throne ; but being discovered, and their whole scheme frustrated, they assembled an army of 40,000 men, and set up Maudlin, a priest, whose person resembled Richard's, to pretend that he was Richard himself: In this they also failed ; most of the leaders were taken and beheaded, and Maudlin was hanged at London ; and this conspiracy hastened the death of the late King, who was soon after basely murdered at Pontefract.

Henry used great severity towards the Lollards, or the followers of Wickliffe ; and had William Sawtree, a clergyman, burnt in London as an heretic.

In 1402, Henry caused Roger Clarendon, the natural son of Edward the Black Prince, and several others to be put to death, for maintaining that Richard was alive. The same year he married Johanna of Navarre, widow of the Duke of Britany.

About this time the Scots invaded England under the Earl of Douglass but were defeated at Hallidown Hill by the Earl of Northumberland and his son Henry Hotspur, with the loss of about 10,000 men; and in this victory several Earls, and other officers were made prisoners; but the King ordering Northumberland to deliver up the prisoners into his hands, the Earl was so exasperated, that he with Henry Percy, surnamed Hotspur, his son, and other Lords, agreed to crown Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March, whom Glandour kept prisoner in Wales. The rebel army encamped near Shrewsbury, headed by Henry Hotspur, the Earls of Worcester, and the Scotch Earls of Douglass; and the King marched directly thither, with 14,000 choice troops headed by himself, the Prince of Wales, and the Scotch Earl of March; and on the 22nd of July, at a place afterwards called

called Battle Field, the King obtained so complete a victory, that about 10,000 of the rebels were killed, among whom was the brave Hotspur, who fell by the hands of the prince of Wales.

In the year 1405 another conspiracy was raised, at the head of which was the Archbishop of York, the Earl of Northumberland, Thomas Mowbray, Earl Marshal, and other noblemen, who assembled a large body of troops at York, and published a manifesto, declaring the King a traitor, and that they were resolved to place Mortimer the lawful heir on the throne. But this rebellion was soon suppressed by the good policy of Ralph Nevill, Earl of Westmorland.

Henry died in the Jerusalem chamber at Westminster, on the 20th of March, 1413, in the 46th year of his age, and the 14th of his reign, and was interred in the cathedral at Canterbury.

XIV. HENRY

XIV. HENRY *the* FIFTH-
from 1413 to 1422.



All conqu'ring Henry's parts and prowess rare,
The glorious field of Agincourt declare;
A vicious Prince, a virtuous King became;
But priests indulged, kept England in a flame.

H E N R Y V.

THIS Prince was the eldest son of Henry IV. and was born at Monmouth in 1388. In his youth he was led into wild courses; but in the midst of all his extravagancies he gave a singular proof of his moderation, in suffering himself to be held into prison, by order of the Lord Chief Justice, whom he struck in the execution of his office; and this circumstance gave the people the greatest hope that he would soon change his conduct, nor were they disappointed. He succeeded to the throne at 25 years of age, and was crowned at Westminster on the 29th of April, 1413. The next year commissioners were appointed for adjusting the disputes between the crowns of England and France; but Henry, seeing that nothing could be done by negotiation, resolved to have recourse to

arms, when Henry Chicheley, Archbishop of Canterbury, advised him to lay claim to the whole kingdom of France, as the heir and successor of Edward III. This war was approved by the parliament. He therefore demanded the crown of France as his right, upon which the Dauphin in contempt sent him a present of a ton of tennis-balls, and let him know that he thought him fitter for play than for war; but Henry sent him word that he would soon repay him with such balls as the strongest gates of Paris should not be rackets sufficient to rebound.

Accordingly, in 1415, Henry embarked his army, amounting to 50,000 men about the beginning of August, on board 1500 transport ships; and landed at Havre-de-Grace in Normandy, on the 21st of August, and immediately laid siege to Harfleur, which surrendered in five weeks. Soon after which
the

the French having assembled an army sixtimes superior to that of the King's, they challenged him to fight, and Henry accepting it, though the French army consisted of 150,000 men, and the English were reduced to 9000. The French therefore made rejoicings in their camp as if the English were already defeated, and even sent to Henry to know what he would give for his ransom ; to which he replied that a few hours would shew whose care it would be to make that provision. The English, though fatigued with their march, sick of a flux, and almost starved for want of food, were inspired by the example of their brave King, and resolved to conquer or die. In this situation Henry sent David Gam, a Welsh captain, to reconoitre the enemy, who bravely reported, that *there were enow to be killed, enow to be taken prisoners, and enow to run away.*

The King was encamped, October

25, 1415, on a plain near Agincourt, and having drawn up his small army into two lines, (the first commanded by the Duke of York, and the second by himself) he disposed his few men to so much advantage, and behaved with such extraordinary conduct and courage that, by the blessing of divine providence, whose assistance he publickly and solemnly implored before the action, by offering up prayers and exhorting his troops to place all their trust in God, he gained a complete victory, after having been several times knocked down, and in the most imminent danger of losing his life. The English killed upwards of 10,000 men, and took more prisoners than they had men in the army; but an alarm being given that the French had plundered the English camp, and were returning to the fight, they were ordered to kill all their prisoners: an order which their own self-preservation rendered
K necessary

necessary: but the English soldiers had too much humanity to execute it: upon which a band of rustians was employed in this massacre.

Henry publicly returned thanks to God and acknowledged that his success was owing to the favour of Heaven. The loss of the English was no more than 400 men.

In 1417, The King, in order to carry on the war, mortgaged his crown for 100,000 marks, and part of his jewels for 10,000l. He landed at Beville in Normandy, on the first of August, with 25,000 men, reduced Caen, &c. and the next year all Normandy fell again to the English.

On the 25th of May 1420. a treaty was concluded at Troy between England and France; wherein it was agreed that the crown of France should descend to the King of England and his heirs, and that Henry should marry Catherine the King of France's daughter.

ter; which being performed he returned to England with his Queen, who was crowned the year following at Westminster.

Henry the next year advanced into France with 30,000 men; but while he was marching towards the river Loire, he was seized with a pleuritic fever, and was carried to Vincennes, where he sent for his Brother, the Duke of Bedford to take upon him the administration of affairs in France, and that the Duke of Gloucester might be Protector of England; and expired about two hours after, on the 31st of August, in the 35th year of his age, and the 10th of his reign. His body was carried to Calais, whence it was conveyed to England, and interred in Westminster Abbey.

This King was brave, prudent, magnanimous and merciful; and though he died in the flower of his age, few Princes have left behind them

such shining proofs of every royal virtue.

This reign was filled with too many glorious actions to permit historians to record trifling circumstances. It is worthy of remark, however, that on Candlemas-day, 1415, seven dolphins were seen playing on the river Thames, and four of them taken.



XV. HENRY the SIXTH,
from 1422 to 1461.



Meek, mild and merciful, but weak his sway
A King of France, the French would not obey;
'Tho' brave his Queen the Yorkins seized his throne
And his sons murderer usher'd in his own.

HENRY

H E N R Y VI.

HENRY of Windfor was only nine months old when his father died. This young prince was proclaimed King of England and heir of France : and his uncles, John Duke of Bedford and Humphry Duke of Gloucester,, were resolved to maintain what his father had procured for him. But as Charles VI. died at Paris on the 20th of October, 1421, the face of affairs was soon changed in France. Henry was proclaimed King at Paris, and the Dauphin at Poitiers, and several battles were fought in which the English had generally the advantage. The Earl of Salisbury had invested Orleans, and when it was near being surrendered, a country girl, named Joan of Arc, who had been bred to the keeping of sheep, undertook to deliver France from the English. She bore

the

the arms and habit of a man, headed the French, and by her frequent and successful sallies, obliged the English to raise the siege; then pursued and harassed them, retook several places, attacked and defeated the brave Lord Talbot, and took him prisoner. At length, after a number of astonishing exploits, this great heroine was taken at Copeigne, and burnt for a witch by the Duke of Bedford's order.

At twelve years of age, King Henry was carried to France, and crowned at Paris; but still the war continued. The Duke of Burgundy, who had been in the English interest, joined with Charles, and Paris shook off its allegiance to Henry. The Duke of Bedford died about this time, so that a truce was concluded, when King Henry's marriage with Margaret of Anjou, the daughter of the titular King of Sicily, contributed to complete his misfortunes.

The

The Queen determined to ruin the Duke of Gloucester, who was presumptive heir to the crown. He was seized, and being closely confined was the next day found dead in his bed, smothered by the Queen's order. Gloucester's death occasioned the Duke of York to lay claim to the crown.

This Prince was descended from Lionel Duke of Clarence, third son to King Edward III. and King Henry was descended from John of Gaunt Duke of Lancaster, the fourth son of the same monarch; so that the right of primogeniture was plainly on the Duke's side.

This reign was full of domestic broils. The Duke of York's ietere gained ground, and his arms were first successful against the King, over whom he gained a complete victory at St. Alban's, took the King prisoner and conducted him to London; and calling a parliament to Henry's name was declared Protector of the kingdom.

H E N R Y VI. 139

The Queen raised an army in the North, and the Duke of York advanced to meet her; but his army being inconsiderable, he was defeated and slain at Wakefield, and his youngest son the Earl of Rutland, not above twelve years old, was cruelly killed by Lord Clifford; and the Earl of Salisbury was beheaded.

Richard Plantagenet Duke of York, being thus dead, Edward Earl of March, his eldest son, took his title, and asserted his claim to the crown with an army of 23,000 men; and being victorious in several engagements, marched directly to London, obliged the Queen to return into the North, and was unanimously acknowledged King.

Thus ended the reign of Henry VI. which had lasted 38 years and a half.

XVI. EDWARD

XVI. EDWARD *the* FOURTH,
from 1461 to 1483.



Not uncelestial Yorkish Edward reigns;
Yet, when victorious, he the throne maintained;
Revengeful, jealous, politic, but lewd,
His virtues were by luxury subdu'd.

E his a
King
the
a bl
30,00
and
Henr
young
Henr
after
ducte
legs ti
The
chief i
the th
him to
Franco
ing Eli
Grey,

E D W A R D IV.

EDWARD came to the throne in the year 1461, and the 20th of his age; no sooner was he proclaimed King than he pursued the Queen into the North, and both armies meeting, a bloody battle was fought, in which 30,000 men were slain, and the King and Queen defeated; on which King Henry and Margaret fled with the young Prince to Edinburgh; but Henry returning into England soon after in disguise, was seized and conducted on a wretched horse, with his legs tied to the stirrups to the Tower.

The Earl of Warwick had been the chief instrument in raising Edward to the throne, but that Prince employing him to negotiate a marriage for him in France, and in the mean time marrying Elizabeth the widow of Sir John Grey, the Earl was so exasperated
tha

that he raised a rebellion, in which he twice defeated the King's forces, and afterwards took his Majesty prisoner, and confined him in Middleham castle, from whence he escaped, and joining the Lord Hastings in Lancashire, returned to London; when another battle ensued, and Warwick's army being defeated he was obliged to fly into France: The Earl of Warwick landed soon after at Dartmouth with a few troops, which he soon increased to 60,000 men; upon which Edward also raised a numerous army at Nottingham, but as his enemies were advancing, the cry of King Henry was raised in his camp, on which Edward fled into Flanders. Warwick then took Henry out of the Tower, and he was again acknowledged the lawful King of England. But Edward afterwards returning to London, he was received with acclamations of joy, and Henry again was committed to the Tower

Another

Another battle was fought in Barnet, between King Edward and the Earl of Warwick, in which the great Earl of Warwick was slain, and 17,000 men. Some days after the remainder of the Earls army was assembled by the Lancastrians, and being joined by other forces, was headed by the Queen, when Edward defeated her at Tewkesbury, and took her prisoner with her son Prince Edward, the Duke of Somerset, &c. The Prince being carried to Edward's camp, was asked why he was so rash as to enter the kingdom in arms, to which boldly replying that he came to recover his right, unjustly usurped, Edward struck him with his gauntlet on the mouth, when the Dukes of Gloucester and Clarence, the Earl of Dorset and the Lord Hastings, stabbed him with their daggers, and thus massacred an amiable Prince, in the 18th year of his age. And soon after King Henry was murdered in the
L
Tower

Tower by the Duke of Gloucester, or, as others say, died with grief in the 50th year of his age.

Queen Margaret, after being four years confined in the tower, was ransom'd by her father for 50,000 crowns. Edward caused his brother the Duke of Clarence, to be drowned in a but of sack. At length King Edward was seiz'd with a fever, or, according to others, with an appoplexy, and died at Westminster on the 9th of April, 1483, in the 42d year of his age, and the 23d

his reign. King Edward had a curious monument in the new chapel in Windsor, founded by himself. Jane Shore, whom Edward had from her husband, was his favourite mistress, for which she was persecuted in the reign of Richard III. and did public penance in St. Paul's church.

XVII. E D W A R D *the* FIFTH,
Two Months and Twelve Days of 1483.



* Poor child ! how short his reign ! domestic strife
Untimely clos'd his own and brother's life !
He saw each faithful friend by fraud expire,
By RICHARD'S fraud, who did to rule aspire

L 2

ED-

E D W A R D V.

THE young Prince was at Ludlow when his father died, but being sent for to London was trepanned by his uncle the Duke of Gloucester, and lodged in the Bishop of London's Palace, where on the 4th of May, 1484, he received the oaths of the principal nobility, and Gloucester was made protector of the King and kingdom; he obliged the queen to deliver up to him the D. of York also, and then sent them both to the Tower, under a pretence of preparing for the coronation; the Tower at that time being a royal palace, from which the procession at coronations was usually made to Westminster. Mean while the Duke of Gloucester, by the assistance of Stafford Duke of Buckingham, Sir John Shaw, Lord Mayor of London, and Dr. Shaw his brother, had his

nephevs,

nephews, and even the late King declared illegitimate, and himself acknowledged King of England, pretending at the same time to accept the crown with reluctance; though, to produce this revolution, he had put to death the Lord Hastings, who was strongly attached to the young King.

As Lord Hastings was greatly beloved by the people, Gloucester pretended that the ambition of Hastings had endangered the kingdom, tho' in fact he was arrested on a trump'd-up charge of forgery. The queen and Jane Shore were accused as his colleagues, and Shore was taken into custody, but was soon after released on doing penance.

Richard's first care was to dispatch the young Prince; and Sir Robert Brackenbury, Lieutenant of the Tower refusing to comply with his cruel designs, he for one night only gave the command of the Tower to Sir James Tyrrell, and he procured two villains,

who in the dead time of the night entered the chamber where the Princes lay, and smothered them in bed. After which they were buried under the stair case, where their bones were discover'd 191 years afterwards, and by order of King Charles II. deposited in Westminster Abbey, and a small monument erected to their memory in Henry VII chapel.

The tyrant Richard, his tool Buckingham, and the other murderers were soon after overtaken by the arm of the Almighty.

XVIII. RICHARD *the* THIRD.
from 1483 to 1485.



RICHARD, with deep hypocrisy endu'd,
Ambitious, cruel, destitute of good ;
Did public praise obtain by wholesome laws,
And bravely fell, had virtue been the cause.

RICHARD III.

RICHARD, the brother of King Edward IV. and the uncle and murderer of King Edward V. was proclaim'd King on the 20th of June 1483, but was not crowned till the 6th of July. He was now in the 32d year of his age and as he had waded to the throne thro' injustice and violence, he endeavoured to gain the favour of the nation by popular laws. However, though he had promised the duchy of Hereford to the Duke of Buckingham, his chief instrument, he refused to perform that promise. At this Buckingham being exasperated, left the court, and entered into a confederacy with Henry Earl of Richmond, the next heir to the crown of the Lancaster race, who was still in Britany, where his mother inform'd him of what had happened in England, and desired he would speedily land

RICHARD III. 151

land in Wales. Mean while the King suspected a conspiracy, and sent for Buckingham to court, who refused to obey the summons, immediately collected his forces in Wales, and began to march towards the western counties; but the Severn arising with a great inundation, he was unable to pass that river, and his army dispersed, and left him only with a single servant. In this melancholy situation he retired into Shropshire, and sheltered himself in the house of Ralph Bannister, who had been his servant, and received many favours from him, but the King offering 1000l. reward for the taking of him, Bannister villainously betrayed his master, who was beheaded at Shrewsbury without any legal process.

The Earl of Richmond at length sailed for England with 40 ships and 5000 men, but his fleet being dispersed in a storm, he was obliged to return. Upon this Richard cruelly sacrificed

all whom he suspected to favour the Earl, concluded an alliance with the Scots, and even corrupted the Duke of Britany's treasurer to destroy Richmond, but he saved himself by escaping into France.

As Henry had solemnly engaged to marry Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Edward IV. Richard poisoned his own wife, and then endeavoured without effect, to prevail on the young Princess his niece, to accept him for her husband. Mean while Henry landed at Milford-haven with only 2000 men, immediately began his march towards Shrewsbury, and was joined by many of the nobility with all the forces they could raise. At length both armies met at Bosworth, the King having 13,000 men, and the Earl only 5000. The engagement was hot and doubtful, till the Lord Stanly, and his brother joined the Earl with fresh troops, when Richmond soon obtained
the

RICHARD III. 153

the victory, in which King Richard soon lost his life; and the crown being found in the field of battle, was placed on Henry's head. Richard's body was after the battle found entirely naked, cover'd with blood and dirt, and being thrown a-crois a horse, was conveyed to Leicester, and interred without the least ceremony.

Thus fell Richard, on the 22^d of August. 1485, in the 34th year of his age, and the 3^d of his reign. He was from his deformity turnam'd Crook-back'd, and one of his arms was almost wither'd. He had a solid judgement, and was naturally brave.

Richard left only a natural son, who perceiving his father's fate, went to London, and put himself apprentice to a bricklayer, which business he continued to his death.

XIX. H E N R Y *the* SEVENTH,
from 1485 to 1502.



The first of Tudor's race of high renown,
'Spite of pretenders held the English crown;
Subtle, profound, his projects tened still,
To fix his empire, and his coffers fill.

H E N R Y VII.

HENRY, having defeated King Richard, was crowned at Westminster on the 30th of October, 1485, and the next year married the Lady Elizabeth the eldest daughter of King Edward IV, by which means the two houses of York and Lancaster became united. However the house of York procured one Lambert Simnel, a young student at Oxford, to pretend that he was the son of the Duke of Clarence, brother to King Edward IV. but after being crowned King in several places he was defeated and taken prisoner; yet the King spared his life, made him his turnspit in his kitchen, and afterwards his falconer.

Soon after, Margaret Duchess of Burgundy, a Princess of the house of York, introduced another Pretender named Perkin Warbeck: he person-
ated

ated Richard Duke of York, Edward the fifth's brother, who was smother'd with that Prince in the Tower. This adventurer attempted to land in Kent with a few followers; but several of his adherents being executed, he fled to Ireland and from thence to Scotland, where he married the Earl of Huntley's daughter, and was twice sent with an army into England by the King of Scotland; but being both times defeated was obliged to retire into Cornwall, where he raised an army, with which he laid siege to Exeter; but the King's forces advancing, he fled again; when his wife being taken, a pension was assigned her on account of her family and beauty. Perkin some time after surrendered himself, and was committed to the Tower, whence he made his escape; but was again taken, and endeavouring to corrupt his keepers, was at length hanged. Henry also, for his own security, caused the Earl

of

of Warwick the Duke of Clarence's son, whom Simnel had personated, and who had been confined in the Tower from his infancy, to be beheaded.

King Henry married his eldest son Arthur to Catherine, the daughter of Ferdinand King of Spain, and his daughter Margaret to James King of Scotland; when England being blessed with tranquility, he was continually making use of new means to hoard up riches for which he had no use: for the purpose he employed Sir Richard Empson and Edmund Dudley, two lawyers, who caused many wealthy persons to be indicted for several crimes, and then obliged them to compound with the King; by which, and other illegal and shameful oppressions, the King amassed / 1,800,000*l.* sterling, which was more than double the value in our present money.

158 H E N R Y VII.

At length Henry grew so absolute that no man durst oppose him. But a little before his death, he ordered by his will, that his heirs should restore what his officers and ministers had unjustly taken from his subjects. He died at Richmond in Surry, on the 22d of April, 1509, in the 53d year of his age, and 24th of his reign, and was interred in his own chapel at Westminster. Both the chapel and his monument are exquisite pieces of workmanship.

Henry exceeded the common stature, was straight limbed, but slender, and had a handsome person. In the year 1417 he instituted the Star-chamber, under the pretence that the channels of justice were corrupted. He promoted commerce, and sent Sebastian Cabot to make new discoveries in America. In his fifteenth year was a great plague, of which 30,000 died in London.

XX. HENRY

XX. H E N R Y *the* E I G H T H,
from 1509 to 1547.



H E N R Y of haughty mind and sturdy mein,
With su y reign'd and oftē chang'd his Queen ;
Disown'd the Pope, yet kept us Papists still,
And burn'd both sides who dar'd contest his will.

H E N R Y VIII.

HENRY VIII. was born at Greenwich on the 28th of June 1491, and succeeded his father Henry VII. on the 22d of April 1509, in the 18th year of his age. He redressed the grievances of the former reign, put Empson and Dudley to death, and wrote a book against Luther: on which the Pope conferred on him and his successors the title of Defenders of the Faith. Soon after his accession he passed over into France, and took Terouane, Tournay, and some other places. In the mean time King James of Scotland invaded England, but was defeated at the famous battle of Floddenfield, when King James, many nobles, and 9000 common soldiers were slain.

In this reign Thomas Wolley, the son of a butcher at Ipswich, from being

being a common priest was at length raised to the See of York, the dignity of a Cardinal, and the post of Lord High Chancellor of England. His pride encreased with his riches, and he caused the Duke of Buckingham to be beheaded for saying, "That if the King died without heirs, he thought he had a right to the throne;" but the real cause was his affronting the Cardinal by pouring water into his shoes, when he had the impudence to dip his hands in the basin, while the Duke held it to the King to wash. Cardinal Wolsey afterwards lost the favour of the King, and was arrested for high-treason; this threw him into a fit of illness, of which he died. King Henry having conceived a passion for Anna Bullen, caused his Queen Catherine to be divorced, under pretence of her having been first married to his brother Arthur; and married Anna Bullen, Nov. 14, 1532, and she was crowned the

the first of July following. By the former he had Mary, and by the latter Elizabeth. The Pope now threatening to excommunicate Henry, both he and the parliament were so exasperated that in 1534 they passed an act, abolishing the papal authority in England. The parliament now acknowledged the King supreme head of the church for refusing to acknowledge which Bishop Fisher, Sir Thomas Moore and others lost their heads.

Henry was then excommunicated, and his subjects absolved from their allegiance; upon which the King suppressed their monasteries; and seized their revenues, &c.

Queen Anna Bullen lived with the King only till she had borne the Princess Elizabeth. Soon after which she was cruelly beheaded, with some of her relations and domestics, on a charge of incontinency; of which there is the greatest reason to believe

her

HENRY VIII.

163

er innocent. Henry then married
 ane Seymour, who died in in child-
 ed of Prince Edward; when it being
 impossible to save both, he was asked
 which should be spared, the mother
 or the child: he replied, "That he
 could easily procure another wife,
 but was not sure that he should have
 another son." He next married
 Anne of Cleves, whom he soon divorced
 and then beheaded, as he did Thomas
 Lord Cromwell for promoting that
 match. His fifth wife Catherine
 Howard was like Anna Bullen be-
 headed for adultery; and Deerham,
 Ancock and Culpepper, confessing
 that they had often lain with her, were
 three beheaded. But Catherine
 Howard, his last wife, survived him.
 Henry died in the night between
 20th and 20th of January 1547, in
 37th year of his age, and the 15th
 of his reign, and was interred at
 Windsor.

XXI. E D W A R D *the Sixth*
from 1547 to 1553.



Edward was learn'd, meek, pious, just and
A man in council, tho' a child in age ;
He laid the basis of the church we boast,
But by his uncle's quarrels oft was cross'd.

E D W A R D VI.

EDWARD, the only son of King Henry VIII. and Jane Seymore, ascended the throne at nine years of age, when he was well skilled in the Latin and French tongues, and had acquired some knowledge of the Greek, Italian, and Spanish, and was committed to the care of sixteen persons, whom Henry had nominated regents of the kingdom and governors of his son; the chief of whom was the Earl of Hertford, the King's uncle by the mother's side, who was soon after made Duke of Somerset and was protector to the young King.

Henry left the reformation very imperfect; but the protector and his friends, assisted by archbishop Cranmer, &c. made use of this opportunity to improve it.

The

The young Queen of Scotland was now demanded in marriage for King Edward, but the same proposal being made by France in behalf of the Dauphin, she was sent into that kingdom; on which the Duke of Somerset invaded Scotland, routed the Scotch army at Musselburgh, and tho' the Duke's army amounted to only 18,000 men, and the Scots to 30,000, the Scots were defeated with the loss of 14,000 killed, and 1500 prisoners; and, what is surprizing, the English are said to have lost only 31 horse-men and 1 foot soldier.

Private masses were now laid aside; prayers were read in English, &c. However, Joan Bocker, embracing the opinions of the German Baptists, was burnt as an heretic; but the young King set his hand to the warrant with tears in his eyes, telling Archbishop Cranmer, "That if he did wrong, since it was in submission to his authority

ity, he should answer to God for it.

These alterations, however, made great disturbance in different parts of the kingdom, which were at length suppressed, some by force of arms, and others by proclamation for a general pardon.

The Duke of Somerset's great power raised him many enemies, the chief of whom was his brother Thomas Lord Seymour; but articles of accusation being exhibited against him, he was attained in parliament, and without an open trial condemned and beheaded. The Duke of Somerset was some time after impeached, and charged with a design to seize the King and to imprison the Earl of Warwick, which was both felony and treason, and though he was acquitted of treason, he was condemned for felony; and the young King being with great difficulty prevailed on to sign the sentence, he was

M

executed

executed some time after. The Earl of Warwick, now Duke of Northumberland, succeeded to the Earl of Somerset's power, and at length (on the King's being taken ill of the measles, married the Lord Guildford Dudley his fourth son, to the Lady Jane Grey, eldest daughter to the Duke of Suffolk, and persuaded Edward to settle the crown on her, his sisters Mary and Elizabeth having been both declared illegitimate during the life-time of their father; and the Prince hoping to save the reformation from impending destruction, appointed her his successor, and soon after died on the 6th of July 1553, in the 16th year of his age, and the 7th of his reign. He was afterwards interred in Westminster Abbey, but his monument was afterwards destroyed in the civil wars.

Edward's person was very beautiful; he had great sweetness of temper, and was remarkable for piety and humanity.

XXII. M A R Y *the* F I R S T,
from 1553 to 1558.



When bloody MARY fill'd the English throne,
The good her brother did was soon undone.
Thro' her short reign tho' much troubling was seen
A wretched bigot and a cruel Queen.

M 2

M A R Y I.

THE Duke of Northumberland kept the death of the young King for some time concealed; and when the Lady Jane, who was distinguished by her beauty, virtue and great learning, was informed of the settlement which her cousin Edward had made of the crown, she was with difficulty prevailed on to receive the offered ensigns of royalty, and was proclaimed at London with the usual formalities. In the mean time the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk declared for Mary, and furnished her with troops on her promising to leave religion in the same state she found it. The Duke of Northumberland marched from London at the head of a small army to oppose them; but being deserted by his troops, he endeavoured to save himself by declaring for Mary; and

and in Cambridge market-place he proclaimed her Queen. The Duke of Suffolk was now ordered by the council to deliver up the Tower, and the Lady Jane Grey to quit the title of Queen, and resign her pretensions.

Mary was determined to sacrifice to her safety or vengeance those whom she considered as her principal enemies. The Duke of Northumberland, with several other persons of distinction, were tried for high-treason and executed.

Queen Mary was crowned on the 1st of October 1553. She soon after married Philip II. King of Spain, and openly declared for popery. An insurrection in Kent was raised by Sir Thomas Wyatt, who was beheaded; and the Duke of Suffolk endeavouring to raise forces in Warwickshire, not only that Duke, but his daughter the Lady Jane Grey, and the Lord Guildford Dudley his son-in-law were beheaded.

Persecution for religion was now carried to the most terrible height : Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer, and Ferrar, with some hundreds of other persons of different ranks and both sexes were cruelly burnt alive. The Princess Elizabeth was closely watched, and obliged to dissemble her religion : and the answer to Gardiner, who put the dangerous question concerning these words of Christ, *This is my body*, was full of caution, and a proof her wit and good sense.

*Christ was the word that spake it,
He took the bread and brake it,
And what the word did make it,
That I believe and take it.*

The people of England were greatly disgusted at the behaviour of Philip, who soon after his arrival declared war against France, and obtained a supply of 8000 English, by whose assistance

assistance the French were defeated at the battle of St. Quintin, but they soon after took Calais, which was the only strong place the English had left in France. Philip had before been greatly disgusted with the Queen, for falsely imagining herself with child; and this, added to the loss of Calais, threw her into an ill state of health; and while the people saw nothing but cruelty in the council, poverty in the exchequer, pride in the court, dissension at home, and contempt abroad. Mary, who had been long afflicted with the dropfy, died at St. James's on the 17th of Nov. 1558, in the 43d year of her age, after a reign of five years, four months, and eleven days; and was interred with great pomp in King Henry the VIIIth's chapel at Westminster.

XXIII. ELIZABETH

from 1558 to 1603.



The fam'd ELIZA's long and glorious reign,
Quell'd Romish superstition, humbled Spain ;
Invasions, plots, her genious fear'd above,
Bless'd in her Servants and her subjects love.

ELIZABETH.

ELIZABETH was proclaimed Queen the same day her sister died. The house of commons addressing the Queen to marry, she excused herself by saying, *that by the ceremony of her inauguration she was married to her people.*

The Dauphin having married Mary Queen of Scotland, they in the beginning of Elizabeth's reign, assumed the title of King and Queen of Scotland, England and Ireland. But Mary becoming a widow by the death of Francis II. King of France and Scotland, she quitted the title of Queen of England, and returned to her own kingdom. She then married her cousin Henry Stuart Lord Darnley; but being accused of many familiarities with Rizzio, her husband became jealous, on which the Earl of Moreton
and

and some others murdered Rizzio. Queen Mary now bestowed all her favours on the Earl of Bothwell. Who murdered the King soon after her delivery of a Prince, who was afterwards James I. King of England, and a few months after the murder that Earl married the Queen. Mary being now in danger of her life from the measures taken to destroy her, fled to England. where she was imprisoned by Queen Elizabeth. The new born prince was immediately set on the throne of Scotland; and Mary, after eighteen years confinement, was beheaded for a conspiracy carried on in her favour.

Queen Elizabeth assisted to the utmost of her power the protestants both of France and Holland. Philip II. King of Spain, exasperated at the assistance Elizabeth his sister-in-law had given the Dutch, though he had before sought her in marriage, now formed the design of dethroning her, and prepared

a prodigious fleet, which was called the invincible Armada ; but that fleet having entered the channel, was bravely and successfully attacked by Elizabeth's Admirals, on the 21st of July 1518 ; when, after a bloody engagement, the English Admirals convinced the seamen that the dreadful apprehensions they had entertained of the large Spanish ships were groundless. The action was renewed on the 2nd, when a sharp engagement ensued off Portland. A running fight was continued the next day ; and on the 25th another terrible re-counter happened off the Isle of Wight. The Spaniards then bore down to the coast of Flanders, and were still pursued by the English ; who in the night of the 28th sent eight fire ships among the Spanish fleet, which had anchored off Calais. The Spaniards then cut their cables and put to sea, were pursued by the English, who
took

took some of their ships, and drove the rest on the coast of Zealand; but the wind chopping about they escaped, and returned home by sailing round Scotland and Ireland; in which attempts several of their ships were taken by the English, and many of them were wrecked by tempests on the coast of Ireland. Thus Providence seconding the endeavours of our fleet, very few of that Armada were able to get back into the ports of Spain. Lord Howard of Effingham, Sir Francis Drake, Captain Hawkins, and Captain Forbisher, were the chief commanders.

The Spaniards lost 32 capital ships, and according to some accounts 81 vessels large and small, with 30,000 men. Queen Elizabeth on the medal she struck on this astonishing victory, piously ascribed all to the glory of God.

She the next year sent a fleet of 100 sail, under the command of Sir Francis Drake

Drake and Sir John Norris, who plundered the Groyn; and, being joined by the Earl of Essex, took Peniohe, seized 60 ships in the Tagus, and destroyed Vigo.

The Spaniards in 1526 were preparing to invade England again with a numerous fleet; upon which the Queen fitted out a fleet of 150 sail, with 22 Dutch ships, under Howard, Essex, Ralieg, and Vere; when the Spanish fleet which lay at Cadiz was defeated by Ralieg, who took four ships, and the rest, which consisted of 13 men of war, 11 ships freighted for the Indies, and 33 others, were burnt by the Spanish Admiral himself, after his having offered in vain to ransom them for two millions of ducats. The English then burnt several villages along the coast, and returned to England with a prodigious booty.

The Earl of Essex, who was the Queen's favourite, was sent as deputy
N Lieutenant

Lieutenant to Ireland, with 20,000 men, to quell a rebellion raised there by the Earl of Tyrone, who assumed the the title of King. Essex, finding he had enemies near the Queen, solicited in vain to return to England: he then grew inactive, and the rebels gained ground. At length concluding a truce with Tyrone, he returned to England; but was soon after suspended from all his employments, and afterwards attempting a change in the ministry was beheaded. Tyrone was at length defeated by lord Montjoy, implored the Queen's mercy.

Elizabeth died on the 24th of March 1603, in the 70th year of her age, and the 45th of her reign. She was interred in Henry the VIIth's chapel,

Her stature was somewhat tall, and her limbs strong. Her hair inclining to red, and her complexion fair. Her voice was loud and shrill, yet she sung gracefully.

XXIV. J A M E S *the* F I R S T,
from 1603 to 1605.



England's first Stuart, from the Scotian clime ;
Learn'd, but pedantic, peaceful to a crime ;
His weak, yet arbitrary acts prepare
A scene of ills for his succeeding heir.

N 2

J A M E S I.

ON the death of Queen Elizabeth, James IV. of Scotland was next heir to the crown, he being descended from the eldest daughter of King Henry VII. and in him the crowns of England and Scotland were united. King James and his Queen were crowned at Westminster, on the 25th of July, 1603.

In 1605 the gun-power plot, to destroy both the King and Parliament, was discovered by an anonymous letter, directed to Lord Monteagle. In a cellar under the Parliament house there were found 36 barrels of gun-powder, upon which were laid bars of iron, massy stones, &c. near to which was Guy Faux, one of the traitors concealed with a dark lanthorn and three matches, who instantly confessed himself guilty; and he, together with Sir
Everard

Everard Digby, Catesby, and several others were executed. Frederick Elector Palatine, married the King's daughter Elizabeth, from which marriage the present Royal family descended; the Princess Sophia, King George the First's mother, being the immediate issue of it. A little before this marriage, Prince Henry, the King's eldest son, and the Prince of Wales, died in the 18th year of his age. It was generally believed he was poisoned by Rochester the royal favourite.

The great Sir Walter Ralieggh, the glory of his country, had been thrown into prison for being one of the principals in a ridiculous plot, pretended to have been form'd in favour of King James's cousin-german, the Lady Arabella Stuart, before James's coronation, of which he was unjustly found guilty, without legal proof, and had been fourteen years confined in the Tower, when he was discharged, and

sent on an expedition in quest of a gold mine, on the coast of Guiana; but returning without effecting the discovery, to please the Count of Gondomar, the Spanish Ambassador, he was shamefully recommitted to the Tower, and cruelly beheaded on his former sentence.

The Dutch, who owed their very existence as a free people to England, now despised James's power, and massacred the English at Amboyna; where they put the factory to death, and seized their effects.

King James's son, Charles, Prince of Wales, was married to the daughter of the French King Henry IV. and as she was a Papist, she established that religion in the family of the Stuarts. King James died on the 27th of March 1625, in the 59th year of his age, and 22d of his reign over England, and was buried in Henry the VIIth's chapel, in Westminster-Abbey.

King

King James was homely in person. He was, however, called the Solomon of his age. tho' he made the great duties of the King subservient to the idle distinctions of the pedant. His ignorance of the English constitution induced him to strain the royal prerogative. He had, however, some virtues blended with his many vices, and he promoted the commerce of the kingdom.

In 1606, Virginia, which had been discovered by the unhappy Sir Walter Ralieggh, in Queen Elizabeths reign, was now planted with an English colony; soon after wick New England and the Bermuda islands were made English plantations.

XXV. CHARLES *the* FIRST
from 1625 to 1649.



Unhappy Prince. his fate atones his fault,
Not weak, but obdurate, and badly taught;
Our constitution hurt by lawless deeds,
Is quite suspended when the Monarch bleeds.

C H A R L E S I.

KING Charles was born at Dumferling in Scotland on the 19th. of November 1600, and succeeded his father James I. in the 25th year of his age, but was not crowned till the 2d. of February. 1626. He was tinctured from his infancy with his fathers principles, relating to the royal prerogative.

King Charles soon after his marriage entered into a war with Spain, and sent a fleet against Cadiz, which proved unsuccessful. However, resolving to carry on the war, and the exchequer being exhausted, he called a parliament.

He then declared war against France in which meeting with no success, a peace was concluded between England, France, and Spain. After this the King called another parliament, and

endeavoured to have the duty of tonnage and poundage, (granted only for certain purposes) put entirely into his hands; but the parliament not complying, he dissolved them. The revenues of the crown being now insufficient for its support, the ministers proceeded to the following rigorous methods of raising money, viz. They exacted the duty of tonnage: granted very numerous monopolies, extending even to old wags; a general loan was proposed, and the people had soldiers billeted on them to compel payment, and several gentlemen were imprisoned for not subscribing; and a tax was proposed^d under pretence of protecting the coast from pirates. The dissenters were severely persecuted, and the King obtained considerable sums by heavy fines imposed in the Star-chamber.

After a long disuse of parliaments, Charles was obliged to recall one in

1640,

1640; they renewed the complaint of grievances; extorted a favourable declaration from the King, and even obliged him to make the parliament perpetual. unless they consented to their dissolution.

Wentworth, Earl of Stafford, and Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, being the King's principal advisers, were both tried and beheaded, at some distance of time from each other.

A rebellion broke out in Ireland, in which 150,000 Protestants were cruelly put to death in cold blood by the papists, pretending that they acted by the King's authority. This therefore was charged to the King's account, though he solemnly disclaimed it. In short tumults between the King and parliament now began to run high; but the first act of hostility was the King's appearing before Hull, and summoning Sir John Hotham, the Governor to surrender, which he absolutely refused.

King Charles then set up his standard at Nottingham; and the parliament raised forces and made the Earl of Essex their general; and soon after a battle was fought near Edge-hill in which each party claimed the victory, and about 5000 men were killed on both sides.

The next year the King's army was successful in several battles in the West of England; but his forces in the North were entirely routed at Marston-moor, and the King engaging with Essex again at Newbury was obliged to retreat with considerable loss.

In 1645, Sir Thomas Fairfax was made General in Chief over the parliament's forces, in the room of the Earl of Essex, and Oliver Cromwell was appointed Lieutenant General; when the two armies coming to an engagement, the Parliamentarians obtained a complete victory.

The

The next year the King made his escape to the Scotch army; but the Scotch after many debates, at last consented to deliver up his Majesty to the Parliament, in consideration of the sum of 400,000*l.* which was done at Newcastle on the 30th of January, 1647, and he was escorted by Sir Thomas Fairfax, with 200 horse, to Holmby-house in Northamptonshire,

Cromwell, who had distinguished himself by his military bravery, now ingratiated himself with the soldiery, and at length become formidable to the parliament itself. He introduced the officers, and some of the most sensible of the common soldiers into the House of Commons, under the name of Agitators; and Cromwell acted as their King. They sent to Holmby and took the King into their hands; and at length brought him to St. James's when an order was passed for bringing him to trial: accordingly a new court

WAS

was erected, called the High Court of Justice. The president was John Bradshaw, Serjeant at Law. The King being several times brought before the Court, and disowning its authority, sentence was pronounced against this unhappy Monarch, on the 27th of January 1649, and the 30th of the same month it was put in execution; when his head was severed from his body, on a public scaffold at Whitehall. The King was in the 49th year of his age, and 24th of his reign when he was thus cut off. On the scaffold he declared himself a protestant, and denied his having any ill designs on his people. This monarch had many private virtues, and would probably have been a worthy prince, had it not been for the principles imbibed in his education, and the ill advice of his ministers.

His person was handsome, and he was of a healthy constitution of body.

*The COMMONWEALTH of England,
from 1649 to 1653.*

THE Parliament had no sooner destroyed the King, than they declared the Royal power dangerous and voted the House of Lords useless. They next appointed forty Members of the executive power, under the title of the Council of State.

Cromwell was then sent into Ireland to reduce the rebels; and in about nine months made great progress towards the reduction of that island; but the Scots revolting and calling over the young king, the parliament sent for Cromwell in haste, and a battle was fought on the 3d of September 1650, at Worcester, in which Cromwell defeated the King's army. His Majesty on this fled to the house of William Penderel, at Boscobel on the confines of Staffordshire, where he lodged

lodged at night in a garret, and in the day sat in a large oak in an adjacent wood ; at length escaped to Normandy. Cromwell afterwards defeated the Scots at Dunbar, took Edinburgh castle, and entirely reduced that kingdom.

Cromwell, in 1653, set up a council of state, who some time after gave him the title of Lord Protector of England.

The Commonwealth was long at war with the Dutch, and in several battles at sea the English distinguished themselves by an amazing intrepidity ; in one of which the English with 106 ships beat the Dutch who had 120.

Cromwell made peace with the Dutch, and joined France and Spain. He obtained Dunkirk, took Jamaica, and in short made his name universally formidable.

At length Cromwell died on the 3d of September 1658, about which time there was one of the most violent tempests ever known in England.

Soon

Soon after the Protector's death, the people turned their thoughts to the restoration of the Royal Authority and Family, which was brought about by General Monk; and King Charles II. was invited to England, and proclaimed King, May 8, 1660. On the 28th he landed at Dover, and on the 29th made his public entry through London on horseback. attended by his two brothers, James Duke of York, and Henry Duke of Gloucester.

XXVI. CHARLES the SECOND,
*Nominally from 1649, actually
from 1660 to 1685.*



Gay, sprightly, heedless, affable and lewd,
In Charles's court few cares did long intrude,
But popish influence stain'd his latter day,
With plots, and sine, and arbitrary sway.

C H A R L E S II.

CHARLES II. was crowned on the 23d of April 1661; one of the first laws passed in his reign was an act of indemnity, excepting those personally concerned in the death of his father, and a few others.

King Charles was married to Catharina Infanta of Portugal: and in 1664 entered into a war with the Dutch, in which several naval battles were fought, and in particular a very bloody one on the 3d of June 1665; when Opdam, the Dutch Admiral lost his life, together with his ship, and 19 others were either taken, burnt or sunk, but in 1667 the Dutch sailed up the Medway, and even burnt many of our ships at Chatham, soon after which a peace was concluded.

1678 one Titus Oates went into Spain, and having informed himself of

a plot formed by the Pope, the King of France, the Duke of York, and others applied to Sir Edmundbury Godfrey, Justice of Peace in Westminster, and represented to him that they had formed a design to murder the King, and subvert the protestant religion in England. On this Sir Edmundbury Godfrey took his deposition; but was soon after murdered, and his body found in a ditch. Several persons were tried and hanged for that murder.

The Presbyterians were then charged with a plot by the Papists; and for this pretended conspiracy, the brave Lord Russell, Colonel Sidney, and the Earl of Essex lost their lives.

In 1667 Lord Chancellor Hyde, whose daughter had been married to the Duke of York, was disgraced and sent to France, where he wrote his history of the rebellion.

Though the Duke of York was a bigotted Papist, yet that was made se

great

great a secret, that the people were severely fined for mentioning it. The King seemed to espouse the interest of France more than his own; and even suffered Louis XIV. to be supplied with British timber for building ships, and selling Dunkirk, which Cromwell had procured for England, employed the purchase-money in his pleasures.

King Charles died on the 6th of February 1685, in the 55th year of his age, after reigning 24 years, 8 months, and nine days, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

The King had a swarthy complexion, a severe and disagreeable countenance; but was tall, and admired for his great affability and easiness of access.

As during Cromwell's government, enthusiasm spread throughout the kingdom; religion was now laid aside, and the smallest appearance of it was represented as ridiculous. In this reign Milton wrote his *Paradise Lost*, and

Butler

Butler his Hudibras. Waller, Howley, Dryden, and Roscommon also did honour to the nation by their writings.

In 1665 a plague carried off in London 70 or 80,000 persons. In 1666 was the dreadful fire, which burnt about 13,000 houses and 90 churches. In this reign a person whose name was Blood, stole the crown, scepter, and regalia out of the Tower, but was discovered and taken. In 1683 there was so severe a frost from the middle of November to the 5th of February, that Hackney coaches plied on the Thames.

XXVII. J A M E S *the* S E C O N D,
from 1685 to 1688.



Blinded with zeal, this furious Popish King
Rome's yoke to England sought again to bring;
He whilst he reign'd, usurp'd a lawless sway,
'Till William came and open'd freedom' day.

J A M E S II.

JAMES Duke of York was proclaimed King on the 6th of February 1685, without any great marks of joy being discovered. However in the Privy Council he made a speech, promising to preserve the government both of the church and state, yet he went publicly to mass two days after his accession.

The coronation of the King and Queen was solemnized on the 3d of April. Titus Oates, the discoverer of the popish plot in the late reign, was now punished with excessive severity tho' he protested the veracity of his testimony. Mr. Dangerfield and Mr. Richard Baxter also received severe treatment: the former for discovering a pretended plot, and the latter for reflection on the prelates.

The Duke of Monmouth landed at Lyme in Dorsetshire with only 83 fol-

203
lower
medi
his fo
main
delive
and t
and t
ried t
temp
seels;
heade
1685.
Th
now
under
cuted
Jeffer
In
hange
tower
the he
been t
Sev

lowers, on the 11th of June, and immediately published a declaration, that his sole motive for taking arms was to maintain the Protestant religion, and to deliver the nation from the usurpation and tyranny of James Duke of York, and that his mother was actually married to King Charles II. But his attempt did not meet with his desired success; he was taken prisoner and beheaded on Tower-hill, on July 15, 1685.

Those who espoused his cause, were now butchered by military execution under Gen. Kirk, or barbarously executed by a form of law under judge Jefferies.

In short about 600 persons were hanged by Jefferies, and the steeples, tower-gates and roads were stuck with the heads and limbs of those who had been the Duke's adherents.

Several arbitrary and scandalous
M proceedings

proceedings were carried on against the Protestants at the instance of the King.

Mean while the Queen was said to be delivered of a Prince on the 10th of June, 1688, though such measures were taken as raised a suspicion of its being a design to impose an heir upon the kingdom. This event alienated the minds of the Princesses Mary and Anne, the King's own indisputable children by Lady Anne Hyde.

The Prince of Orange, Stadtholder of the united provinces, had married Mary, King James's eldest daughter, and was himself the son of that King's eldest sister; he naturally attracted the regard of the people of England, who applied to him for deliverance from the oppression and tyranny of James; accordingly the Prince of Orange landed at Torbay, on the 5th of November 1688, and was joyfully received by the people.

His

His Majesty now appointed commissioners to treat with the Prince of Orange about terms of accomodation. The Prince made his proposals with great moderation; but James chose to desert his kingdom rather than retract what he had done in favour of the popish religion; and therefore went disguised, and embarked in a vessel near Feversham in Kent, where he was stopped by some fishermen and brought back to London; however he fled a second time, and escaped into France in December 1688. He afterwards made a fruitless attempt upon Ireland; and spent the last twelve years of his life at St. Germain, where Lewis XIV. allowed him a pension of about 50,000 sterling, per annum. At length he died in 1701, in the 68th year of his age.

M

XXVIII. WILLIAM *the* THIRD, and
MARY *the* SECOND, *from* 1688 to 1702



William the Hero, with Maria mild,
(He James's n phew, she his eldest child)
Fix'd freedom and the church, reform'd the co
Oppos'd the French, and settled Brunswick's line

WILLIAM III. AND MARY II.

UPON King James's departure, the Lords and Commons agreed, after much dispute that he had abdicated the throne. Then the Princess Mary and the Prince of Orange were proclaimed King and Queen on the 11th of February 1689, and crowned the 11th of April following.

An attempt was made to secure Scotland for King James ; but on the 26th of May 1689 the two armies met at Killlickerany, in the shire of Perth, when Lieutenant General Mackay, who commanded for King William, obtained a victory ; after which the whole island of Great Britain submitted to King William.

In Ireland, Tyreconnel had disarmed the Protestants in great part of the kingdom. and formed an army of

208 WILLIAM III. *and* MARY II.

Papists, amounting to 30,000 foot and 8000 horse, while the Protestants in the North took up arms for King William. Mean while James made his public entry into Dublin, and soon after put himself at the head of 20.000 men, and was twice reinforced by the French, with 5000 men each time. James's forces were defeated in many battles; and at length King William arriving in person, he gained a complete victory over James at the battle of the Boyne, and thereby established himself on the throne of Ireland.

James then left Dublin, and going to Waterford, took shipping for France; where he spent the remainder of his days at St. Germain's, living upon the bounty of Lewis XIV. and an annual pension of 4000l sterling which he received secretly from his daughter Mary. He died at St. Germain's in 1701.

Soon after the battle of the Boyne, King William returned to England.

but

WILLIAM III. *and* MARY II. 209

but another battle was fought June 30, 1691, at Aughrim, between the English, commanded by G. Ginkle, and the Irish assisted by the French, when the English gained a complete victory. After which Galway surrendered, and Limerick capitulated; and thus an end was put to the war in Ireland.

About this time King William formed a grand alliance against Lewis XIV. and headed the allied armies in several battles; at length the French made overtures of peace, and the treaty was concluded at Ryfwick in 1697.

Whilst the King was thus engaged abroad, his illustrious Queen died December 28, 1695, and was greatly lamented on account of her uncommon goodness.

Several conspiracies were formed in favour of James during King William's reign, the most remarkable of which was the assassination plot for murdering the Prince in his coach; for which Sir John

216 WILLIAM III. *and* MARY II.

John Fenwick, Sir John Freind, Sir William Perkins and others were executed.

King William was thrown from his horse, by which his collar bone was dislocated, and he died on the 8th of March, 1702, in the 14th year of his reign, and 52d of his age, and was interred next to his Queen in Henry the VIIth chapel.

King William was of a brown complexion, had a Roman nose, and a piercing eye; was of a middle stature, and round shouldered. One of the last acts of his life was signing the bill for settling the crown on the illustrious house of Hanover, in case princess Anne of Denmark, who had a little before buried the Duke of Gloucester, died without issue.

XXIX. A N N E,

from 1702 to 1714.



Ten years of glory brighten'd Anna's reign,
While Marlborough's arms did victory maintain
For should hard censure shade her closing scene,
For tho' misled, well meaning was the Queen.

A N N E.

THE crown devolved to princess Anne, daughter of James II. crowned April 23, 1702.

War was declared against France and Spain on the 4th of May, by the Queen the Emperor, and the States General :

The Earl of Marlborough, in 1702, led to the field the army of the allies, consisting of 53,000 foot, and 7200 horse. He took the first campaign, Venio, Ruremond, Stevensweart, and Liege.

Sir George Rook, the same year, attempted to take a number of Gallies at Vigo, but the French set their ships on fire; eleven of which were burnt and ten taken by the English.

August 2, 1704, Marlborough gained a glorious victory at Blenheim, the French had 12,000 men killed, and 14,000 made prisoners, among whom

was

was Marshal Tallard, seven Generals, and 1200 officers; and 300 squadrons were drowned in the Danube.

Sir George Rook took Gibraltar, after a siege of two days, on July 4, 1704. Next year Marlborough with 74,000 defeated the French and Bavarian's consisting of 75,960.

The same year the brave Earl of Peterborough took Barcelona; and next raised the siege of St. Matheo, and with 1200 men obliged 7000 to fly, took Morviedro, and seized Valencia.

On May 12, 1706, Marlborough, with 59,185 men, attacked the French and Bavarians, 61,120 strong, and in less than two hours put their whole army to flight. The enemy had 8000 killed, 4000 wounded, and 6000 taken prisoners.

Marlborough and Prince Eugene, July 1708, defeated the whole French army at Oudenard. The French had 4000 killed and wounded, and 7000 taken

taken prisoners; while the confederates had only 820 men killed. The Duke soon after took Lille, relieved Brussels, and obliged Ghent to surrender. During these transactions, Major General Stanhope, with 8000 men, landed at Minorca, and took the whole island with the loss of only 40 men.

In 1711, the Duke took Bouclain; this was the last service performed in the field by the immortal Duke of Marlborough, who was at last, on the change of the ministry, dismissed from all his employments. These wars were at length concluded by the treaty of Utrecht, in 1713.

The Queen died at Kensington, August 1, 1714, in the 50th year of her age, and the 13th of her reign. She was privately interred in Henry the VIIth's chapel.

Inur
Before
In w
Was

XXX. GEORGE *the* FIRST
from 1714 to 1727.



Inur'd alike to council and the field,
Before his sway saw opposition yield.
In wisdom and the law he put his trust,
Was cautious, steady, fortunate and just.

N

G E O R G E I.

ON the death of Queen Anne, the Elector of Hanover was proclaimed King ; and crowned on the 11th of October following. He made several changes in the ministry ; and the Duke of Marlborough was restored.

Mean while the Pretender asserted his claim to the crown, and it soon appeared that James, the son of King James II. had a considerable party in England. John Erskine, Earl of Mar, with several other noblemen and gentlemen, assembled at the Brae of Mar, and on September 16 proclaimed the Pretender King, and their numbers soon encreased to 12,000 men. The Earl of Derwentwater and Mr. Forster assembled their friends in Northumberland, and Forster declared the Pretender King at Warkworth. Mean while Lord Viscount Kenmure headed some noblemen

noblemen and others in the west of Scotland, and at the same time declared the Pretender King at Moffat, in Annandale. Kenmure joined Forster, on the borders of Scotland.

Mackintosh, Kenmure and Forster, marched to Preston in Lancashire; but the Generals Wallis and Carpenter, with nine regiments of dragoons, and one of foot, surrounded the places; when Forster submitted, and delivered up all his men prisoners at discretion.

On the 22d of September, the Pretender landed at Peterhead, and was conducted to Fetterosse, where he was proclaimed King. The Duke of Argyll, in January 1716, obliged the rebels to abandon Perth; from whence they returned to Montrose, where the Pretender privately made his escape to France; upon which General Gordon led them into the mountains where they were dispersed.

Of the great number who were sentenced to die for this rebellion, none were executed except the Lords Derwentwater, and Kenmure, and a small number of the lower rank.

In 1718 war was declared against Spain, when Sir George Byng was sent with 21 ships into the Mediterranean; and on July 31 he defeated the Spanish Admiral, took ten men of war, and burnt four, and even made the Admiral and Rear Admiral prisoners. After which he destroyed seven Spanish men of war, and great quantities of naval stores on the coast of Sicily and Biscay.

In December, a Spanish squadron, with 10,000 regular troops under the Duke of Ormond was sent to invade England; but were dispersed by a violent storm. However the Marquis of Tullybardino, and the Earl of Seaforth and Marischal, with 307 Spanish soldiers, landed in Scotland, and were joined

G E O R G E I. 219

joined by 2000 Highlanders: but Gen. Whiteman, with 120 men, on the 10th of June entirely defeated them.

Lord Cobham then made a descent upon Spain, and took Vigo.

In 1727 his Majesty set out for Germany, but was taken ill in his coach on the the road to Hanover, and died two days after at Osnaburgh, on the 11th of June, in the 68th year of his age, and the 13th of his reign, and was interred at Hanover.

XXXI. GEORGE *the* SECOND;
from 1727 to 1760.



In issue happiest of the kingly strain ;
Triumphant o'er rebellion and its train ;
He silenc'd faction, humbled France's pride,
He liv'd beloy'd and crown'd with glory died.

G E O R G E II.

AS his late Majesty died abroad, his death was not known till the 14th of June, 1727, and his Majesty King George II. was, the next morning proclaimed King, and he with his Queen was crowned at Westminster on the 11th of October.

His Majesty found the nation engaged in a war with the Spaniards; but in 1729 a peace was concluded at Seville, between Great Britain, France and Spain.

On October 29, 1739, war was declared against Spain; and on November 22, 1743, Admiral Vernon, with six ships, took Porto Bello. The next year he was sent with 29 ships of the line, with 10,000 soldiers under the command of General Wentworth, to attack Carthagena; but tho' he destroyed six Spanish ships of the line, and

and seven galleons, the attempt miscarried thro' a disagreement between the Admiral and the General.

Commodore Anson sailed from England with five men of war in 1740, and after having suffered the most dreadful distresses, surprized and took Païra on the 12th of November, 1740, and having plundered and burnt the town, and several Spanish ships, he on his return, by the way of the East Indies, took the Manilla galleon, loaded with treasure. He arrived in England in 1744, with the riches he had acquired, amounting to 400,000l.

His late Majesty George II. powerfully supported the Queen of Hungary's succession to the hereditary dominions of her father the Emperor Charles VI. and at length England and France, under the name of auxiliaries to the contending parties, became principals in the war: when his Britannic Majesty not only furnished

16,000

G E O R G E II. 223

16,000 British troops, but in person headed the allied army in Germany, accompanied by the Duke of Cumberland; and a battle was fought at Dettingen, June 16, 1743, when the King of Great Britain had the glory of the field. The Duke of Cumberland was wounded in the action.

In 1744, war was declared against France; and in 1745, the people of New England, assisted by ten men of war, under Commodore Warren, took Cape Breton, with the loss of only 100 men; but were afterwards obliged to part with it for Madras.

On the 14th of July the young Pretender sailed to Scotland in a small frigate, and landed there on the 27th of July. He soon obtained a considerable force, and proceeding through several parts of Scotland, had his father proclaimed King, while he himself assumed the title of Prince-Regent. He took several places, and gained some

some advantages over the King's forces sent against him ; but at length the Duke of Cumberland went to Edinburgh, and took the command of the army, and on the 15th of April came to an engagement near Collodien-house and obtained a complete victory, in which about 1400 of the rebels were killed, wounded, and taken prisoners, tho' the royal army had only 60 men killed, and 280 wounded. The Earl of Kilmarnock, Lord Belmerino, Lord Lovat, and Mr. Radcliffe, brother to the late Earl of Derwentwater, were afterwards beheaded.

Hostilities at length ceased in Flanders, and a general peace was proclaimed in London, Feb. 2, 1749. The French, however, soon broke the peace by erecting forts on the back of the British settlements in America, and in 1754 attempted to seize Nova Scotia.

Mean while the French landed 17,000 men in Minorca, which was defended

defended by Gen. Blakeney, His Majesty declared war against France on the 15th of May, 1756, and sent Admiral Byng, with a strong fleet, to the relief of Minorca; but he neglected to fulfil his instructions. He was shot at Portsmouth.

During these transactions Col. Clive distinguished himself in the East Indies: and all the towns and factories belonging to the French on the coast of Coromandel, except only Pondicherry were in a few years taken by the English.

In 1758 the Duke of Marlborough landing near St. Maloes in France, burnt many ships, with a great quantity of naval stores. Lieutenant Gen. Bligh, and Capt. (now Lord) How, took Cherburgh and demolished its fortifications. Soon after, Capt. Marsh took Senegal, and Com. Keppel took the Island of Goree, on the coast of Africa. On the 26th of July, Cape Breton

Breton was again taken by General Amherst and Admiral Boscorren. Soon after fort Frontenac surrendered to Lieut. Gen. Bradstreet, and fort du Quesne to Gen. Forbes.

On May 1, 1759, the valuable Island of Guadaloupe surrendered to the English, and the same month Marigalante, Santos, and Deseada became subject to England. And the same year the French lost Quebec, the capital of Canada.

In 1760, Thurot landing with three frigates in the Bay of Carickfergus they were all taken by Capt. Elliot, and on Sept. 8, Montreal and all Canada submitted to the English. But after these glorious conquests his Majesty King George II. to the inexpressible grief of his people, died at Kensington on the 25th of Oct. in the 77th year of his age, and the 34th of his reign.

F I N I S.

ral
en.
ered
fort

able
d to
Ma.
be
the
the

hree
rgus
lliot,
l Ca-
But
Ma-
pref-
Ken-
7th
f his